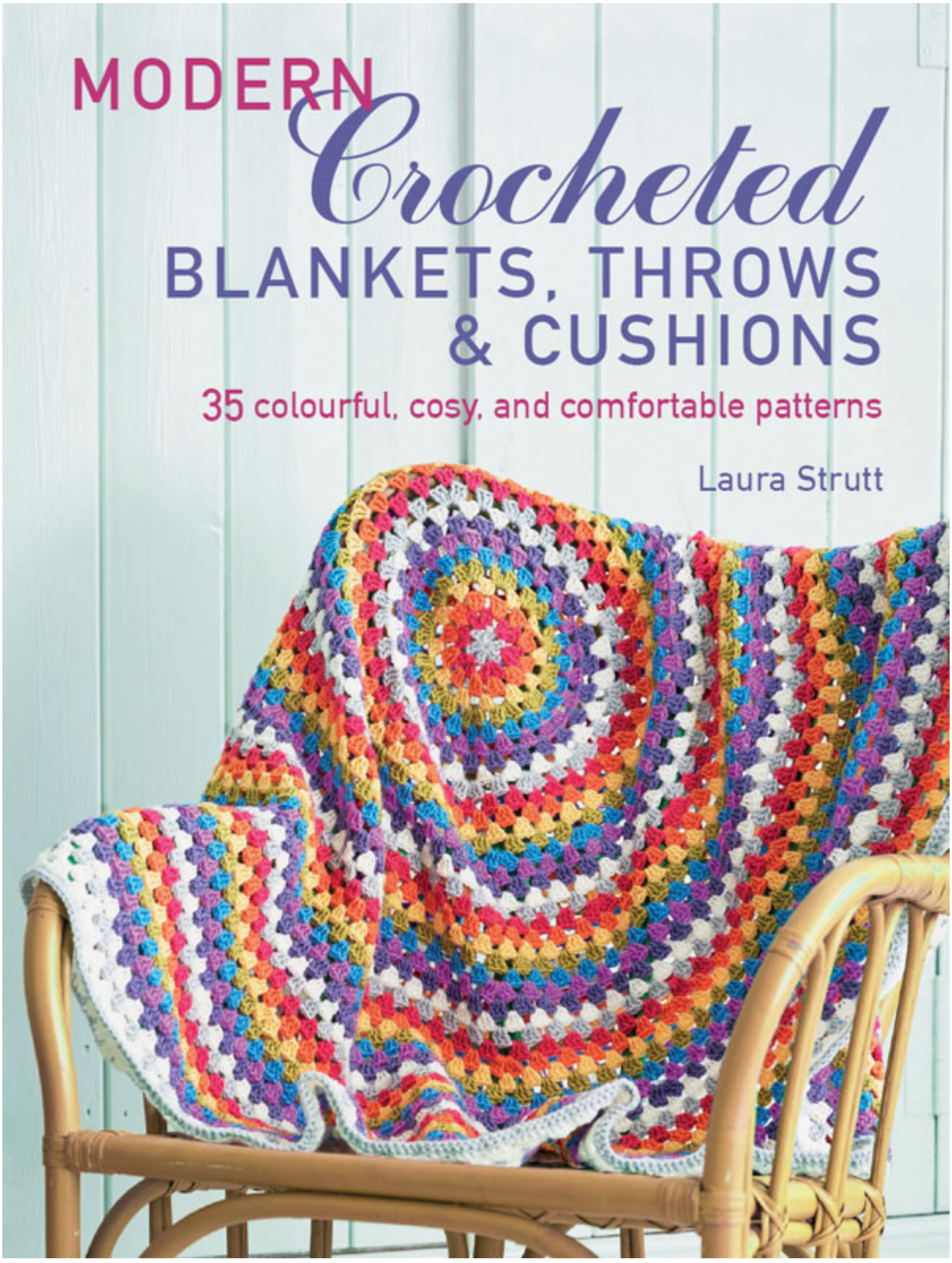
MODERN Crocheted BLANKETS, THROWS & CUSHIONS

35 colourful, cosy, and comfortable patterns

Laura Strutt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35 colorful, cozy, and comfortable patterns

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Dedication

To Ethan Wolf – welcome to the pack Wolfie!

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INTRODUCTION

Crocheted blankets, afghans, and pillows never seem to go out of style. Maybe it's because we are often nostalgic for these colorful creations, or because there are so many possible variations. Whether you wrap a blanket around yourself on a cold winter evening, drape a throw over your favorite armchair, or cuddle up to a handmade pillow, these crocheted creations are a hug that you can keep!

Growing up with grandmothers who both crocheted, I recall a colorful childhood of afghans on their couches, cozy comforters for us, and even mini blankets for our dolls and teddies. Like me, many are touched by nostalgia when it comes to crocheted blankets, and many of the designs in this book are inspired by the traditional techniques favored by my grandmothers. However, when the yarns and colors are carefully selected, crocheted blankets can also offer a boho style or even a modern geometric feel, giving them a wide appeal for a variety of personal styles. Many blankets, throws, and pillows can be worked with the repetition of just a handful of stitches, making them ideal for novice crocheters looking to branch out. Others feature more complex color and stitch techniques, which will give those with more experience a bit of a challenge.

Whether you are making something to give as a gift, or to keep and treasure for yourself, I hope that this collection of colorful and creative designs will inspire you, boost your personal passion for crochet, and teach you a few new techniques along the way.

Happy crocheting!

Laura

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Crocheted blankets, afghans, throws, and pillows are fabulous projects to make, whether you want to update your decor, or to give them as gifts to be treasured.

This book offers a collection of 35 different patterns, which are ideal projects for discovering new techniques and building your crochet skills, whether you're a seasoned crochet fan or a budding novice. You can also choose from larger scale designs that require a considerable time commitment, or opt for a more modular make, which you can work "on the go" to fit into your personal schedule.

TIPS AND HINTS

• Blankets and throws are often very large makes. Not only does this mean that they are a commitment in time, but they can also be hard work on the wrists. Reduce the pressure and strain on your wrists by holding the weight of the project in your lap as you work. In addition, larger makes can be off-putting due to how time consuming they are perceived to be. You can always work on them in small, more manageable sections, focusing on one color or strip pattern repeat per session, and enjoy the process!

• Or course, you may like to change the size of these blankets, making them larger or smaller to suit your requirements. For the most part these designs can be customized by increasing or decreasing the initial foundation chain or by working more or fewer rounds or rows. Just be sure to adjust the yarn quantities accordingly before you begin.

• Larger projects also use larger quantities of yarn, and it is always a good idea to make sure that you have enough yarn before you begin. Also, try to ensure that each ball in a bulk order comes from the same dye lot, as although the shade is the same, you will be surprised at just how much variation can occur from one dye lot to the next—and it can often be noticeable on a finished piece.

• You may prefer to work with a selection of yarns already available in your stash. Substituting yarns for those used in the patterns can be done quickly and easily: simply check the yarn details given in the projects and compare them to the yarn you wish to work with. You can always work a swatch to see whether you will need to size up or size down your crochet hook to match the gauge given.

• Some of the projects, such as the Vintage Lace Granny Squares (page 98) and the Purple Patch (page 56) particularly benefit from being blocked once completed. Blocking will bring the piece to the finished measurements and will help to make a real feature of fancy stitches. In projects like Deep Pinks and Blues (page 33), blocking each individual square before seaming will help the blanket to come together more neatly. Blocking can be done by soaking or spritzing with water and pinning out to the set dimensions to dry—you can buy purpose-made blocking boards or you can use foam mats or even a bed. You can also use the steam from an iron to help block pieces, covering them first with a pressing cloth to protect the fibers. Different yarns respond better to different methods of blocking—using the heat and steam from an iron can damage acrylic or man-made fibers.

• Some of the patterns in this book—such as Waves of Color (page 62) and A Stitch in Time (page 30)—feature lots of color changes, leaving many yarn ends to weave in. On larger projects like blankets, this can take a long time during the finishing stages, so try and hold the yarn against the work when you change colors, to weave in the ends as you go (see page 125).

YARN

Blankets and throws can be made from any yarn you like—you can work with anything from hand-dyed yarns from indie spinners, mainstream brands, yarns from your existing stash, or even repurposed yarns from old handknits! Of course, all different yarns will have different properties and finishes, which will have an impact on the final pieces.

You may prefer to select natural fibers for small babies and children, machine-washable yarns for items you expect to have heavy use, and sumptuous blends of silk or alpaca for extra special gifts.

Alongside the composition of the fiber, the weight of the yarn will affect the finished piece too. Lightweight yarns will be much more floaty than the dense fabric created by using chunkier yarns,

A full description of the yarns—brand, style, fibers, length per ball, weight per ball, shade, and amount needed—is included in each of the patterns in this book, to make it easy for you to recreate these designs at home. However, you will also find information on the gauge for the project. This will not only help you achieve the look and measurements of the pieces by helping you to select the correct crochet hook to match the gauge, but is also useful should you want to make a yarn substitution. The closer the yarn is in composition, style, and weight to the yarn listed, the closer to the finished piece the make will be.

With larger makes, like blankets, it is often the case that these are worked on for a while then put away in favor of other makes, before being revisited. While this is often a great way to work on large-scale projects, it is wise to store them in a suitable manner. A sealed box or even a zip-lock bag will keep them away from dust and dirt, and also prevent them getting snagged or damaged while you aren't working on them. Storing them with some dried lavender will give your WIP a fresh scent and ward off moths in the process!

You may want to keep a note of the crochet hook used (if not storing it with your project) so that you won't create any variations in gauge by returning to work on a project with the incorrect hook.

EQUIPMENT

Crochet hooks: The patterns in this book indicate the size of hook to use with the yarn listed for the project. You can adjust these where necessary to accommodate yarn substitutions, or to adjust your gauge. How you hold your hook is a matter of preference—left-handed or right-handed, some like to hold their hook in a pencil-grip, while others prefer to hold it in their fist like a knife. There is no right or wrong way, as long as you are able to move your wrist freely and can comfortably work neat and even stitches. See page 115 in the techniques section for further guidance.

Locking stitch markers: These can be put in position to indicate the start of a round or the position of an increase or decrease, and you can move them on as you start the next round or row.

Tapestry and yarn needles: These are used to secure the ends of the yarn at the start and end of the project, and also where changing colors. For heavier weight yarns, try using a split-eye needle or even a small crochet hook to secure in the ends neatly.

Sewing needle and thread: Handy to have for securing buttons or other fastenings to finished makes.

Tape measure: Always useful for checking gauge swatches and finished sizes when blocking.

Rust-proof pins: For holding your project in shape while blocking.

SKILL LEVEL

Each project includes a star rating as a skill level guide and you will find the project includes the techniques listed below:

●●● Projects for first-time crocheters using basic stitches with minimal shaping.

●●● Projects using yarn with basic stitches, repetitive stitch patterns, simple color changes, and simple shaping and finishing.

••• Projects using a variety of techniques, such as basic lace patterns or color patterns, mid-level shaping and finishing.

ABBREVIATIONS

alt	alternat(e)ing
approx.	approximately
BLO	back loop only
ch	chain
ch sp(s)	chain space(s)
cm	centimeter(s)
cont	continu(e)ing
dc	double crochet
dc2tog	double crochet 2 stitches together
dec	decreas(e)ing
FLO	front loop only
foll	follow(s)ing
g	gram(mes)
hdc	half double crochet
in	inch(es)
inc(s)	increase(s)
m	meter(s)
mm	millimeter(s)
oz	ounce(s)
patt	pattern
rep	repeat
RS	right side
sc	single crochet
sc2tog	single crochet 2 stitches together
sl st	slip stitch
st(s)	stitch(es)
sp	space

tr	treble
yd(s)	yard(s)
WS	wrong side
yoh	yarn over hook
[ ]	work section between square brackets number of times stated
*	asterisk indicates beginning of repeated section of pattern

CHAPTER ONE

BRIGHT *and Beautiful*

RAINBOW MANDALA

CANDYFLOSS COLORS

SUNNY SKIES

SALTWATER TAFFY

SUNBURST SQUARES BLANKET

DIAMOND BRIGHTS

A STITCH IN TIME

DEEP PINKS AND BLUES

PICNIC TIME

CORNER-TO-CORNER COLOR

NEON LIGHTS

ALL THE COLORS MANDALA

RAINBOW *Mandala*

This large lap blanket is a colorful take on a traditional granny design. Worked to create a giant circle, the vibrant pattern repeats play up the boho style.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Stylecraft Special DK (100% acrylic, approx. 322yd/295m per 3½oz/100g ball) light worsted (DK) weight yarn:

1 ball each of shades:
- Silver 1203 (A)
- Pomegranate 1083 (B)
- Spice 1711 (C)
- Saffron 1081 (D)
- Lime 1712 (E)
- Aster 1003 (F)
- Magenta 1084 (G)
- Violet 1277 (H)
- Cream 1005 (I)

US size G/6 (4mm) hook
Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 57in (145cm) in diameter

GAUGE (TENSION)

First 3 rounds measure 3½in (9cm) in diameter.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the blanket

Using a US size G/6 (4mm) hook and yarn A, make a magic ring.

Round 1: Ch3 (counts as 1dc throughout), 1dc into the ring, [ch1, 2dc into the ring] 5 times, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *Six 2-dc groups*.

Round 2: Sl st in next st, join in yarn B, sl st in ch sp, ch3, (1dc, ch1, 2dc) in same sp, *ch1, (2dc, ch1, 2dc) in next ch sp; rep from * to end of round, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *Twelve 2-dc groups.*

Round 3: Sl st in next st, join in yarn C, sl st in ch sp, ch4 (counts as 1dc and ch1 throughout), 3dc in next ch sp, *ch1, 3dc in next ch sp; rep from * to end of round, ch1, 2dc in same ch sp as first sl st, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch. *Twelve 3-dc groups*.

Round 4: Join in yarn D, sl st in ch sp, ch3, 2dc in same sp, *ch1, 3dc in next ch sp; rep from * to end of round, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.

Round 5 (inc): Join in yarn E, ch4, *(3dc, ch1, 3dc) in next ch sp, ch1; rep from * to last ch sp, (3dc, ch1, 2dc) in last ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch. *Twenty-four 3-dc groups*.

Round 6: Join in yarn F, sl st in ch sp, ch3, 2dc in same sp, *ch1, 3dc in next ch sp; rep from * to end of round, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.

Round 7: Join in yarn G, ch4, 3dc in next ch sp, *ch1, 3dc in next ch sp; rep from * to last ch sp, 2dc in last ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch.

Round 8: Join in yarn H, sl st in ch sp, ch3, 2dc in same sp, *ch1, 3dc in next ch sp; rep from * to end of round, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.

MAKE IT YOURS/ This blanket is made with a rainbow-striped design; alternatively you can work in color blocks, but be sure to adjust yarn amounts

accordingly.

The increases are worked every 5th round, and 12 groups will be added on each increase round. Keep track of the row count so as to not lose your place in the pattern.

Round 9: Join in yarn I, ch4, 3dc in next ch sp, *ch1, 3dc in next ch sp; rep from * to last ch sp, 2dc in last ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch.
Round 10 (inc): Change to yarn A, sl st in ch sp, ch3, 2dc in same sp, *ch1, (3dc, ch1, 3dc) in next ch sp, ch1, 3dc in next sp; rep from * to last ch sp, ch1 (3dc, ch1, 3dc) in last ch sp, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *Thirty-six 3-dc groups*.
Round 11: Change to yarn B, ch4, 3dc in next ch sp, *ch1, 3dc in next ch sp; rep from * to last ch sp, 2dc in last ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch.
Round 12: Change to yarn C, sl st in ch sp, ch3, 2dc in same sp, *ch1, 3dc in next ch sp; rep from * to end of round, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Cont in patt as set, rep color block patt of yarns A to I until 6 full color reps have been worked in total and **at the same time** working inc round every 5th round [working one more 3dc group between (3dc, ch1, 3dc) increases on every inc round]. *One hundred and thirty-two 3-dc groups*.
Change to yarn A, work one more inc round as set.
One hundred and forty-four 3-dc groups.
Change to yarn I, work 2 rounds in patt as set.

FOR THE BORDER

Round 1: Using a US size G/6 (4mm) hook and yarn A, 1sc in each dc and ch sp to end, join with a sl st in first sc. *576 sc*.

Round 2: 1ch (does not count as st), 1sc in each sc to end, join with a sl st in first sc.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

CANDYFLOSS *Colors*

This striking pattern is created with the simple repetition of two rows of stitches—alternating between three colors gives it a bold, modern finish.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Lion Brand Pound of Love (100% acrylic, approx. 1019yd/932m per 16oz/454g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:

1 ball each of shades:
- Pastel Blue 106 (A)
- White 100 (B)
- Pink 103 (C)

US size J/10 (6mm) hook
Locking stitch markers/safety pins (optional)
Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 38 x 62in (96.5 x157.5cm)

GAUGE (TENSION)

Five 3-dc groups x 10 rows = 4in (10cm) square, using a US size J/10 (6mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the blanket

Using a US size J/10 (6mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 151 sts.

Row 1: 1sc in 3rd ch from hook (skipped 2-ch does not count as st or 2-ch sp), *ch2, skip 2 ch, 1sc in next ch; rep from * to last 4 ch, ch2, skip 2 ch, 1sc in each of next 2 ch, turn. *51 sts + forty-nine 2-ch sps*.

Row 2: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 3dc in first ch-2 sp made in previous row, *3dc in next ch-2 sp made in previous row; rep from * to end, 1dc in last sc, turn. *149 sts*.

Row 3: Join in yarn B, ch1, 1sc in sp between 1-dc and 3-dc made in previous row, *ch2, 1sc between next 2 sets of 3-dc; rep from * to end, ch2, 1sc in 3rd of 3-ch, turn. *50 sts + forty-nine 2-ch sps*. Rows 2 and 3 form Block Stitch patt. Rep these 2 rows, alt between yarn C and yarn A for row 2 and always using yarn B for row 3, until work measures 61in (155cm), ending with row 2 worked in yarn A.

Cont with yarn A, work row 3. Do not turn.

The foundation chain is very long; to help keep count, add locking stitch markers every 25 chain stitches.

Weave in the ends as much as possible as you go, then you can secure the tails when working the border round the outer edge.

MAKE IT YOURS/ Swap the plain white yarn for a dark shade to change the finished look of the blanket.

FOR THE BORDER

Using a US size J/10 (6mm) hook and holding yarns A, B, and C as one, work 3sc in each dc sp along first side, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in first corner, 3sc in each ch sp along bottom, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in 2nd corner, 3sc in each dc sp along 2nd side, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in 3rd corner, 3sc in each ch sp along top, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in 4th corner, join with a sl st in first sc.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

SUNNY *Skies*

Create a geometric design with ultra-modern fabric yarn, for an instant update to your interiors. This classic hexagon is formed by adding simple increases while working in the round. Made in a super-thick yarn, this is a quick-and-easy make for beginners and more experienced crocheters alike.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Lion Brand Fast-Track (60% cotton, 40% polyester, approx. 149yd/136m per 8oz/227g ball) super bulky (super chunky) weight yarn:

- 3 balls of shade Chopper Grey 149 (A)
- 2 balls of shade Taxi Cab Yellow 157 (B)
- 3 balls of shade Cruise Ship Aqua 102 (C)

US size Q (15mm) hook
Locking stitch marker or safety pin
Yarn needle or smaller crochet hook

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket measures 44in (112cm) along each straight side

GAUGE (TENSION)

Exact gauge is not essential for this project.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the hexagon

Using a US size Q (15mm) hook and yarn A, make a magic ring.
Round 1: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc into the ring, *ch1, 2dc into the ring; rep from * 4 more times, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *12 dc + six 1-ch sps*.
Round 2: Ch4 (counts as 1dc and ch1), *(2dc, ch2, 2dc) in next 1-ch sp, ch1; rep from * 4 more times, (2dc, ch2, 1dc) in last 1-ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *24 dc + six 2-ch sps + six 1-ch sps*.

This blanket is worked in the round from a central magic ring; you can place a locking stitch marker at the start of every round to help you keep on track.

Round 3: Sl st in first ch sp, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in same ch sp, ch1, *(2dc, ch2, 2dc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, 2dc in next 1-ch sp, ch1; rep from * 4 more times, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *36 dc + six 2-ch sps + twelve 1-ch sps*.
Cont in patt as set, using foll color sequence:
Yarn A for 1 round.
Yarn B for 2 rounds.
Yarn C for 2 rounds.
Yarn A for 2 rounds
Yarn B for 2 rounds.
Yarn C for 2 rounds
Yarn A for 2 rounds.
Yarn B for 2 rounds.
Yarn C for 2 rounds.

FOR THE BORDER

Change to yarn A.

Next round: Ch1, 1sc in each st and 1-ch sp, and 2sc in each 2-ch sp, to end of round, join with a sl st in first sc. *366 sc*.
Next round: Ch1, 1sc in each st to end, join with a sl st in first sc. Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

Bulky yarn like this doesn't always fit through the eye of a yarn needle. You can always use a small crochet hook instead to help you weave the ends in neatly.

MAKE IT YOURS/ For a denser, thicker make—or to create a rug—double the yarn quantities and hold two strands of yarn together throughout.

MAKE IT YOURS/ This throw can be increased in size, just ensure that the number of stitches in the foundation chain is a multiple of 29 plus 3.

SALTWATER *Taffy*

A chevron is a geometric motif that simply never goes out of style. This soft bedrunner in seaside colors is worked in single crochet, with texture added by working into the back loops, giving it a distinctive finish.

SKILL RATING: ●●●

MATERIALS

Caron Simply Soft (100% acrylic, approx. 314yd/288m per 6oz/170g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:

- 3 balls of shade White 9701 (A)
- 2 balls each of shades:
  - Sage 9705 (B)
  - Autumn Maize 0008 (C)
  - Strawberry 0015 (D)

US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook

Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 46 x 62in (117 x 157.5cm)

GAUGE (TENSION)

Exact gauge is not essential for this project.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the throw

Using a US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 177 sts.

Row 1: Beg in 2nd ch from hook, *sc2tog, 1sc in each of next 13 ch, 3sc in next ch, 1sc in each of next 13 ch, rep from * to last 2 ch, sc2tog, turn. *181 sts*.

Note: Work in BLO of all sc sts.

Row 2: Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), sc2tog, 1sc in each of next 13 sc, 3sc in next sc, *1sc in each of next 13 sc, skip next 2 sc, 1sc in each of next 14 sc, 3sc in next sc; rep from * to last 15 sc, 1sc in each of next 13 sc, sc2tog. *181 sts*.

Row 2 forms patt, cont in patt as set using foll color sequence:

Yarn B for 4 rows.
Yarn A for 2 rows.
Yarn C for 4 rows.
Yarn A for 2 rows.
Yarn D for 4 rows.
Yarn A for 2 rows.

Rep this color block 7 more times (8 times in total) until work measures 62in (157.5cm), ending after 2 rows in yarn A. Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

Tips

Make sure that you work through the back loops only of the single crochet stitches, as this is what gives the blanket its unique textured finish.

Changing yarn color every few rows leaves lots of loose ends to weave in; hold the ends of the yarn against the work as you change color and work the stitches to secure the ends as you go. You might also like to carry the white yarn up the sides to save cutting it at each change.

Sunburst Squares BLANKET

This bright and colorful granny square motif is a firm favorite and it is one that will never go out of style. These classic squares are joined-as-you-go, so you will be surprised how quickly this blanket can be made!

SKILL RATING: ●●●

MATERIALS

Paintbox Yarns Simply Aran (100% acrylic, approx. 201yd/184m per 3½oz/100g ball) light worsted (DK) weight yarn:

9 balls of shade Champagne White 202 (A)

1 ball each of shades:

Slate Grey 205 (B)
Melon Sorbet 216 (C)
Pansy Purple 247 (D)
Mustard Yellow 223 (E)
Vintage Pink 255 (F)
Slate Green 226 (G)
Raspberry Pink 243 (H)
Dolphin Blue 236 (I)
Pale Lilac 245 (J)
Misty Grey 203 (K)

US size I/9 (5.5mm) and US size J/10 (6mm) hooks
Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 52 x 64in (132 x 162cm)

GAUGE (TENSION)

Each square measures 6in (15cm) square, using US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

PS (puff stitch) – *yoh, insert hook in st, yoh, draw yarn through; rep from * 3 more times (7 loops on hook), yoh, draw through all 7 loops, ch1 to close st

3-dc cl (3-double crochet cluster) – *yoh, insert hook in ch sp, yoh, draw yarn through, yoh draw yarn through first 2 loops; rep from * twice more (4 loops on hook), yoh, draw through all 4 loops

4-dc cl (4-double crochet cluster) – *yoh, insert hook in ch sp, yoh, draw yarn through, yoh draw yarn through first 2 loops; rep from* 3 more times (5 loops on hook), yoh, draw through all 5 loops

For the blanket

STARBURST GRANNY SQUARE

Using a US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook and yarn B, make a magic ring.
Round 1: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 15dc into ring, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *16 sts*.
Round 2: Join yarn C (or 2nd color), ch1, PS in first dc, ch1, *(PS in next dc), ch1; rep from * to end, join with a sl st in first PS. *16 PS*.
Fasten off 2nd color.

Round 3: Join yarn D (or 3rd color) in first ch sp, ch2, 3-dc cl (counts as 4-dc cl) in same sp, ch1, *4-dc cl in next ch sp, ch1; rep from * to end, join with a sl st in top of 3-dc cl.
Fasten off 3rd color.
Round 4: Join yarn A in first ch sp, ch2 (counts as 1hdc), 2hdc in same sp, 3hdc in each of next 2 ch sps, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next ch sp for corner, *3hdc in each of next 3 ch sps, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next ch-sp for corner; rep from * twice more, join with a sl st in 2nd of 2-ch.
Round 5: Sl st in each of first 2 sts, sl st in sp between clusters, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 2dc in same sp, ch1, [3dc in next sp between clusters, ch1] twice, *(3dc, ch3, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp for corner, ch1, [3dc in next sp between clusters, ch1] 4 times; rep from * twice more, (3dc, ch3, 3dc) in last 2-ch sp for corner, ch1, 3dc in next sp between clusters, ch1 join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Fasten off.
Make 80 squares in total, using a combination of colors for each round, mix and match as you go for a more eclectic style. Round 1 is always worked in yarn B and rounds 4 and 5 are worked in yarn A. Join-as-you-go as follows:

Tips

You might find it quicker to work in a production-line style, making the centers first, then adding the remaining sections before joining all together.

This is made with a combination of colors for each round, mix and match as you go for a more eclectic style.

JOIN-AS-YOU-GO

Once one square is complete the square next to it can be joined on in the final round. This is done at each corner 3-ch sp and every 1-ch sp along sides of each joining edge or edges by passing the loop of the stitch that you are making on the current square through the corresponding stitches of the other square, before continuing with the stitch. Continue in this manner adding on each new square as the round is worked. Make 10 rows of 8 blocks.

FOR THE BORDER

Round 1: With RS facing, using a US size J/10 (6mm) hook, join yarn K in first 1-ch sp after any corner, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 2dc in same sp, *3dc in each ch-sp to next corner, (3dc, ch1, 3dc) in corner sp; rep from * 3 more times, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 2: Sl st in each of next 2 sts, sl st in sp between clusters, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 2dc in same sp, *3dc in each sp between clusters to next corner, (3dc, ch1, 3dc) in corner sp; rep from * 3 more times, 3dc in next sp between clusters, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 3: Change to yarn A, ch1, *1sc in each st to next corner, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner sp; rep from * 3 more times, 1sc in each st to end, join with a sl st in first sc.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

MAKE IT YOURS / Create a more refined design by working with a smaller color palette or tones of the same shade for each square.

DIAMOND *Brights*

This variation of the classic granny square uses the combination of half double, double crochet, and treble to makes stitches of varying heights.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Stylecraft Special DK (100% acrylic, approx. 322yd/295m per 3½oz/100g ball) light worsted (DK) weight yarn:

1 ball each of shades:
Aster 1003 (A)
Cloud Blue 1019 (B)
Sherbet 1034 (C)
Empire 1829 (D)
Saffron 1081 (E)
Turquoise 1068 (F)
Violet 1277 (G)
Aspen 1422 (H)
Pistachio 1822 (I)
Sunshine 1114 (J)
Fuchsia Purple 1827 (K)

Lime 1712 (L)
Spice 1711 (M)
Tomato 1723 N)
Magenta 1084 (O)
Pomegranate 1083 (P)
Cream 1005 (Q)

US size G/6 (4mm) hook
Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 34 x 50in (86 x 127cm)

GAUGE (TENSION)

Each square measures 7½in (19cm) diagonally at widest point, using US size G/6 (4mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the blanket

DIAMOND BLOCK (MAKE 3 IN EACH COLOR, 48 IN TOTAL)

Using a US size G/6 (4mm) hook and yarn A, make a magic ring.
Round 1: Ch3 (counts as 1dc throughout), 2dc into the ring, *ch2, 3dc into the ring; rep from * twice more, ch2, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 2: Ch5 (counts as 1tr and ch1), (3hdc, ch2, 3hdc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, (3hdc, ch2, 3hdc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, (3tr, ch2, 2tr) in last 2-ch sp, join with a sl st in 4th of 5-ch.
Round 3: Ch3, 2dc in first 1-ch sp, ch1, (3hdc, ch2, 3hdc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, 3dc in next 1-ch sp, ch1, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, 3dc in next 1-ch sp, ch1, (3hdc, ch2, 3hdc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, 3dc in next 1-ch sp, ch1, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.

Tips

Blocking these diamonds before seaming them together will bring out the shaping.

The center of the blocks is made with a magic ring; be sure to draw it up fully to neatly close the hole at the center.

Round 4: Ch4 (counts as 1dc and ch1), 3dc in next 1-ch sp, ch1, (3hdc, ch2, 3hdc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, (3dc, ch1) in each of next two 1-ch sps, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, (3dc, ch1) in each of next 2 1-ch sps, (3hdc, ch2, 3hdc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, (3dc, ch1) in each of next two 1-ch sps, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, 2dc in last 1-ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch.
Round 5: Ch3, 2dc in first 1-ch sp, ch1, 3dc in next 1-ch sp, ch1, (3hdc, ch2, 3hdc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, (3dc, ch1) in each of next three 1-ch sps, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, (3dc, ch1) in each of next three 1-ch sps, (3hdc, ch2, 3hdc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, (3dc, ch1) in each of next three 1-ch sps, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, 3dc in last 1-ch sp, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Place all diamond blocks into desired pattern in eight rows of six.
Using a US size G/6 (4mm) hook and yarn Q, join the blocks together with 1sc in each stitch, working through both layers. Work around each block to join it to the surrounding shapes, this will create a finished border once all the seaming is complete.
Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

MAKE IT YOURS/ Create a repeating pattern by positioning the diamond blocks in your chosen design before seaming up.

A STITCH IN *Time*

This large lap blanket features a host of bright yarns and range of stitches to create a sampler effect. It is ideal for working with yarns from your stash.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Cascade 220 (100% Peruvian highland wool, approx. 220yd/200m per 3½oz/100g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:
- 4 balls of shade Grey 8509 (A)
- 1 ball each of shades:
  - Blue Hawaii 9421 (B)
  - Bright Red 8414 (C)
  - Mineral Blue 8311 (D)
  - Butter 8687 (E)
  - Deep Lavender 8762 (F)
  - Azalea 9610 (G)
  - Nectarine 2451 (H)

US size J/10 (6mm) hook
Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 44 x 48in (112 x 122cm)

GAUGE (TENSION)

12 dc x 6 rows = 4in (10cm) square in dc, using US size J/10 (6mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATION

3-dc cl (3-double crochet cluster) – *yoh, insert hook in ch sp, yoh, draw yarn through, yoh, draw yarn through first 2 loops; rep from * twice more (4 loops on hook), yoh, draw through all 4 loops

For the blanket

Using a US size J/10 (6mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 127 sts.

Row 1: 1dc in 3rd ch from hook (skipped 2-ch doesn't count as st), 1dc in each st to end. *125 dc*.

Row 2: Ch3 (counts as 1dc throughout), 1dc in each st to end.

Rep row 2 thirty-four more times, 36 rows in total.

Row 37: Change to yarn B, ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 1sc in each dc to end. *125 sc*.

Row 38: Change to yarn A, ch1, 1sc in each sc to end.

Rows 39–41: Using yarn C, ch3, 1dc in each st to end. *125 dc*.

Row 42: Change to yarn D, ch3, skip first 2 sts, 3dc in next st, *skip next 2 sts, 3dc in next st; rep from * to last 2 sts, skip 1 st, 1dc in last st.

Rows 43–44: Using yarn E, ch3, 1dc in each st to end. *125 dc*.

Row 45: Change to yarn F, ch1, 1sc in each st to end. *125 sc*.

Row 46: Ch4 (counts as 1dc and ch1 throughout), skip first 2 sts, *1dc in next st, ch2, skip next 2 sts; rep from * to last 3 sts, 1dc in next st, ch1, skip 1 st, 1dc in last st.

Row 47: Change to yarn C, ch3, 1dc in next ch sp, 1dc in next st, *2dc in next ch sp, 1dc in next st; rep from * to last ch sp, 1dc in ch sp, 1dc in last st. *125 dc*.

If using yarns from your stash, be sure to pick ones of the same weight, so that the gauge remains the same throughout.

Row 48: Change to yarn G, ch4, skip first 2 sts, 3-dc cl in next st, *ch2, skip next 2 sts, 3-dc cl in next st; rep from * to last 2 sts, skip 1 st, ch1, 1dc in last st.
Rows 49–51: Using yarn D, ch3, 1dc in each st to end. *125 dc*.
Row 52: Change to yarn B, rep row 46.
Row 53: Using yarn B, rep row 47.
Row 54: Change to yarn E, rep row 42.
Rows 55–57: Using yarn H, ch3, 1dc in each st to end. *125 dc*.
Row 58: Change to yarn F, rep row 48.
Rows 59–60: Using yarn G, ch3, 1dc in each st to end. *125 dc*.
Row 61: Change to yarn E, ch3, 1dc in each st to end. *125 dc*.
Row 62: Change to C, rep row 46.
Row 63: Change to yarn F, rep row 47. *125 dc*.
Rows 64–65: Ch3, 1dc in each st to end, 1dc in 3rd of 3-ch.
Row 66: Change to yarn B, rep row 42.
Row 67: Change to yarn A, ch3, 1dc in each st to end. *125 dc*.
Rep row 67 eleven more times.
Fasten off.

FOR THE BORDER

Round 1: With RS facing, using US size J/10 (6mm) hook, join yarn F in first st after top right corner, ch1, *1sc in each st to next corner, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner, 2sc in each row end to next corner, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner; rep from * once more, join with a sl st in first sc.
Round 2: Ch1, *1sc in each st to next corner, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner sp; rep from * 3 more times, 1sc in each st to end, join with a sl st in first sc.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

MAKE IT YOURS/ Why not use up more scraps from your stash and make a multi-colored fringe or tassels?

DEEP *Pinks and Blues*

Give this simple motif a fresh look with bright, bold shades. This modular design is made up of lots of squares seamed together, making it a fun and portable project.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Rowan Summerlite DK (100% cotton, approx. 142yd/130m per 1¾oz/50g ball) light worsted (DK) weight yarn:

3 balls each of shades:
- Fuchsia 455 (A)
- Indigo 450 (D)
- Lagoon 457 (E)

2 balls each of shades:
- Rouge 462 (B)
- Summer 453 (C)

US size G/6 (4mm) hook
Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 35 x 41in (88 x 104cm)

GAUGE (TENSION)

16 dc x 8 rows = 4in (10cm) square in dc, using US size G/6 (4mm) hook.

Each square measures 5in (12.5cm), using US size G/6 (4mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the blanket

SOLID GRANNY SQUARE (MAKE 42)

Using a US size G/6 (4mm) hook and yarn A, make a magic ring.
Round 1: Ch3 (counts as 1dc throughout), 2dc into the ring, *(ch2, 3dc) into the ring; rep from * twice more, ch2, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.

Round 2: Change to yarn B, ch3, 1dc in each of next 2 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp, *1dc in each of next 3 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp; rep from * twice more, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.

You may find that blocking each individual square before you seam them together makes the blanket much neater.

Round 3: Change to yarn C, ch3, 1dc in each of next 4 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp, *1dc in each of next 7 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp; rep from * twice more, 1dc in each of next 2 sts, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 4: Change to yarn D, ch3, 1dc in each of next 6 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp, *1dc in each of next 11 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp; rep from * twice more, 1dc in each of next 4 sts, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 5: Change to yarn E, ch3, 1dc in each of next 8 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp, *1dc in each of next 15 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp; rep from * twice more, 1dc in each of next 6 sts, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Arrange the blocks into seven rows of six. Using a US size G/6 (4mm) crochet hook and yarn A, join the blocks together with 1sc in each st through both layers, working through BLO.

FOR THE BORDER

Rounds 1–3: With RS facing, using a US size G/6 (4mm) hook, join yarn A in first st after any corner, ch3, *1dc in each st to next corner, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in corner; rep from *3 more times, join with a sl st in first 3rd of 3-ch.
Fasten off.
Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

MAKE IT YOURS / Alternate the color sequence of each block for a more unique finish.

Picnic TIME

Create a classic chequerboard design by working in blocks of color across the row—this afghan carries the yarn across the work so there aren't as many ends to weave in as you might expect!

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Caron One Pound (100% acrylic, approx. 811yd/742m per 16oz/454g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:

1 ball each of shades:
- White 10501 (A)
- Sky Blue 10508 (B)
- Pale Royal Blue 10624 (C)

US size J/10 (6mm) hook
Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished afghan is 45in (114cm) square

GAUGE (TENSION)

10 dc x 5 rows = 4in (10cm), using US size J/10 (6mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the afghan

Using a US size J/10 (6mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 112 sts.

Row 1: 1dc in 3rd ch from hook (skipped 2-ch doesn't count as st), 1dc in each of next 9 sts, *change to yarn B (carrying yarn A), 1dc in each of next 10 sts, change to yarn A (carrying yarn B), 1dc in each of next 10 sts; rep from * to end. *11 color blocks ending with yarn A*.

Rows 2–6: Beg with yarn A, ch3 (counts as 1dc throughout), 1dc in each of next 9 sts, *change to yarn B (carrying yarn A), 1dc in each of next 10 sts, change to yarn A (carrying yarn B), 1dc in each of next 10 sts; rep from * to end.

When changing colors on each block, introduce the new color by taking it through to complete the last part of the final double crochet worked in the previous color.

Try to maintain an even gauge when carrying the non-working yarn so as not to draw up the stitches.

Rows 7–12: Beg with yarn B, ch3, 1dc in each of next 9 sts, *change to yarn C (carrying yarn B), 1dc in each of next 10 sts, change to yarn B (carrying yarn C), 1dc in each of next 10 sts; rep from * to end.

Rep rows 1 to 12 four more times.

Rep rows 1 to 6 once more, to create 11 blocks of color by 11 rows of color blocks.

FOR THE BORDER

Rounds 1–2: With RS facing, using a US size J/10 (6mm) hook, join yarn C in first st after any corner, ch1, *1sc in each st to next corner,

(1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner; rep from * 3 more times, join with a sl st in first sc.
Round 3: Change to yarn A, ch1, *1sc in each st to next corner, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner; rep from * 3 more times, join with a sl st in first sc.
Round 4: Change to yarn C in first st after any corner, ch1, *1sc in each st to next corner, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner; rep from * 3 more times, join with a sl st in first sc. Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

MAKE IT YOURS/ Create this afghan in your preferred colorway by selecting two shades—a light and dark—of the same color and team with white.

CORNER-TO-CORNER *Color*

Play up the diagonal design of this pillow, which is worked from one corner to the opposite corner, by using bold blocks of color.

SKILL RATING: ●●●

MATERIALS

Bernat Satin (100% acrylic, approx. 200yd/182m per 3½oz/100g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:
2 balls of shade Camel 04010 (A)
1 ball each of shades:
Maitai 04732 (B)
Fern 04222 (C)
Lavender 04309 (D)
US size H/8 (5mm) hook
Yarn needle
25in (63cm) square pillow form
Pillow cover or fabric to create backing

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished pillow is 25in (63cm) square

GAUGE (TENSION)

Five 3-dc blocks x 5 rows = 4in (10cm) square in stitch patt, using US size H/8 (5mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the pillow

Using a US size H/8 (5mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 6 sts.
Row 1: 1dc in 4th ch from hook, 1dc in each of next 2 sts. *One 3-dc block*.
Row 2: Turn work, ch6, 1dc in 4th ch from hook, 1dc in each of next 2 sts, sl st in ch sp on block from previous row, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 3dc in same sp.
Two 3-dc blocks.
Row 3: Turn work, ch6, 1dc in 4th ch from hook, 1dc in each of next 2 sts, sl st in ch sp on first block from previous row, ch3 (counts as 1dc),

3dc in same sp, sl st in ch sp on 2nd block from previous row, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 3dc in same sp. *Three 3-dc blocks*.
Cont in patt as set for a further 4 rows, 7 rows in total. *Seven 3-dc blocks.*
Cont in patt as set, working foll color sequence:
Yarn B for 4 rows. *Eleven 3-dc blocks*.
Yarn C for 8 rows. *Nineteen 3-dc blocks*.
Yarn D for 4 rows. *Twenty-three 3-dc blocks*.
Yarn A for 6 rows. *Twenty-nine 3-dc blocks*.

Join the yarns as neatly as possible, and hold the tails against the work to make the finishing quicker and neater.

Double-check the size as you work by holding against the pillow form; you will be able to see when to decrease once the work is as long as one side of the pad.

BEGIN DECREASING

Cont with yarn A, turn work, sl st in 3 sts on first block in row, *sl st in ch sp on next block from previous row, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 3dc in same sp; rep from * to last block, sl st in ch sp on last block, turn for next row.
This sets patt for dec, cont in dec patt as set in foll color sequence until one block remains:
Yarn A for 20 rows. *Eight 3-dc blocks*.
Yarn B for 7 rows. *One 3-dc block*.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten. Place panel onto front of fabric pillow cover and stitch to secure.

To create your own fabric backing, cut two pieces of fabric to 18 x 27in (45 x 67.5cm). Fold 1in (2.5cm) to the WS around each side, press and sew in place. Place the two pieces together, both with RS facing up, to create a 25in (62.5cm) square panel—the pieces will overlap in the center to allow the pillow form to be inserted. With WS together, place the assembled fabric piece onto the crochet panel and sew around the outer edges.

MAKE IT YOURS / Make a double-sided pillow by doubling the yarn amounts and making two panels, then join to make a pillow front and back.

NEON *Lights*

This striking home decor make is created by wrapping an oversized granny square around a pillow form—it's great as a floor pillow, too.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Rowan Handknit Cotton DK (100% cotton, approx. 93yd/85m per 1¾oz/50g ball) light worsted (DK) weight yarn:

2 balls each of shades:
- Flamingo 368 (A)
- Gooseberry 219 (C)
- Bleached 263 (D)

5 balls of shade Slate 347 (B)

US size 7 (4.5mm) hook
26in (66cm) square pillow form
Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished pillow is 26in (66cm) square

GAUGE (TENSION)

First 3 rounds measure 3½in (9cm) square.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the pillow

Using a US size 7 (4.5mm) hook and yarn A, make a magic ring.
Round 1: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 2dc into the ring, *ch2, 3dc into the ring; rep from * twice more, ch2, join with sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 2: Ch4 (counts as 1dc and ch1), *(3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1; rep from * twice more, (3dc, ch2, 2dc) in last 2-ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch.
Round 3: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 2dc in first 1-ch sp, *ch1, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, 3dc in next 1-ch sp; rep from * twice more, ch1, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in last 2-ch sp, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 4: Join in yarn B, ch4 (counts as 1dc and ch1), 3dc in next 1-ch sp, *ch1, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, 3dc in next 1-ch sp, ch1, 3dc in next 1-ch sp; rep from * twice more, ch1, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, 2dc in last 1-ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch.
Cont in patt as set, working 3dc in each 1-ch sp and (3dc, 2ch, 3dc) in each 2-ch sp, using foll color sequence:

Yarn B for 1 round.
Yarn C for 1 round.
Yarn B for 2 rounds.
Yarn D for 1 round.
Yarn B for 2 rounds.
Yarn A for 1 round.
Yarn B for 2 rounds.
Yarn C for 1 round.
Yarn B for 2 rounds.
Yarn D for 1 round.
Yarn B for 2 rounds.
Yarn A for 2 rounds.
Yarn B for 2 rounds.

Yarn C for 2 rounds.
Yarn B for 2 rounds.
Yarn D for 2 rounds.
Yarn B for 1 round.
Yarn A for 1 round.

Fasten off.

Tips

This design can be made to fit any size square pillow form. To ensure that your pillow cover is going to be large enough, place the pad in the center of the crocheted square and fold it around—this will show whether you need to work a few more rounds.

Securing the cover when the bulky pillow is inside is a little awkward, so try folding and seaming one side before slipping the pillow form inside and completing.

MAKE IT YOURS/ Solid colors like these make a great striped effect, but try working in variegated yarns for a more unique finish.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.
Place the granny square WS up and position the pillow form in the center, with the straight edges facing towards the points of the square. Fold the points of the granny square in towards the center of the pillow form and crochet the four seams together using yarn A, working 1sc in each dc and ch sp.
Fasten off and weave in any ends.

ALL THE *Colors Mandala*

Create a colorful boho-style mandala pillow by working with leftover yarns from your stash. Note that this project only uses a small amount of each of the colors listed.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Cascade 220 (100% Peruvian highland wool, approx. 220yd/200m per 3½oz/100g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:

1 ball each of shades:
- Nectarine 2451 (A)
- Goldenrod 7827 (B) Aqua 8951 (C)
- Natural 8010 (D)
- Purple Hyacinth 7808 (E)
- Deep Lavender 8762 (F)
- Chartreuse 7814 (G)
- Blaze 9542 (H)
- Aspen Heather 8011 (I)
- Blue Hawaii 9421 (J)
- Tiger Lily 9605 (K)

Lion Brand Pound of Love (100% acrylic, approx. 1019yd/932m per 16oz/454g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:

1 ball of shade White 100 (L)
US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook
Yarn needle
28in (70cm) diameter pillow form

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished pillow is 28½in (72cm) in diameter

GAUGE (TENSION)

13 dc x 7 rounds = 4in (10cm) using a US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATION

PS (puff stitch) – *yoh, insert hook into sp, yoh, draw yarn through, keeping yarn loops long; rep from * 5 more times, yoh, draw yarn through all loops on hook, ch1 to close st

For the pillow

FRONT

Using a US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook and yarn A, make a magic ring.
Round 1: Ch4 (counts as 1dc and ch1), *1dc into the ring, ch1; rep from * 10 more times, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *12 dc + twelve 1-ch sps*.
Round 2: Change to yarn B, ch2, *PS in next ch sp, ch3; rep from * to end, join with a sl st in top of first PS. *12 PS +twelve 3-ch sps*.
Round 3: Join yarn C in any 3-ch sp, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 2dc in same ch sp, ch1, *3dc in next ch sp, ch1; rep from *to end, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *Twelve 3-dc groups + twelve 1-ch sps*.
Round 4: Join yarn D in any 1-ch sp, ch6 (counts as 1dc and ch3), *1dc in next ch sp, ch3; rep from * to end, join with a sl st in 3rd of 6-ch. *12 dc + twelve 3-ch sps*.

Round 5: Join yarn E in any 3-ch sp, ch3 (counts as 1dc), (1dc, ch1, 2dc) in same ch sp, ch1, *(2dc, ch1, 2dc) in next ch sp, ch1; rep from * to end, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *48 dc + twenty-four 1-ch sps*.
Round 6: Join yarn F in any 1-ch sp, rep row 3.
Twenty-four 3-dc groups + twenty-four 1-ch sps.
Round 7: Join yarn C in any 1-ch sp, rep row 4. *24 dc + twenty-four 3-ch sps*.

You can mix and match different yarns from your stash, but to ensure that you get a neat finish try to select yarns of the same weight, as this will help you to maintain an even gauge.

MAKE IT YOURS/ The mandala can be worked in any colors you choose; remember that the larger the circle gets the more yarn you will need.

Round 8: Join yarn L in any 3-ch sp, ch3 (counts as 1dc), (2dc, ch1, 3dc) in same ch sp, *(3dc, ch1, 3dc) in next ch sp; rep from * to end, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Forty-eight 3-dc groups + forty-eight 1-ch sps.
Round 9: Join yarn B in any 1-ch sp, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 2dc in same 1-ch sp, *ch1, 3dc in sp between next two 3-dc groups, ch1, 3dc in next 1-ch sp; rep from * to last two 3-dc groups, ch1, 3dc in sp between last two 3-dc groups, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Forty-eight 3-dc groups + forty-eight 1-ch sps.
Round 10: Join yarn G in any 1-ch sp, rep row 2. *48 PS + forty-eight 3-ch sps*.
Round 11: Join yarn H in any 3-ch sp, rep row 3.
Forty-eight 3-dc groups + forty-eight 1-ch sps.
Round 12: Join yarn F in any 1-ch sp, rep row 4. *48 dc + forty-eight 3-ch sps*.
Round 13: Join yarn I in any 3-ch sp, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 4dc in same ch sp, *5dc in next 3-ch sp; rep from * to end, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *240 dc*.
Round 14: Change to yarn D, ch1 (does not count as st), 1sc in each dc to end, join with a sl st in first sc. *240 sc*.
Round 15: Change to yarn J, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in each sc to end, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *240 dc*.
Round 16: Change to yarn B, ch1 (does not count as st), *1sc, ch6, skip next 4 sc; rep from * to end, join with a sl st in first sc. *48 sc + forty-eight 6-ch sps*.
Round 17: Join yarn G in 3rd ch of any 6-ch sp, ch1, 1sc in same ch, *ch7, 1sc in 3rd ch of next 6-ch sp; rep from * to end, ch7, join with a sl st in first sc. *48 sc + forty-eight 7-ch sps*.
Round 18: Join yarn K in any 7-ch sp, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 6dc in same ch sp, *7dc in next ch sp; rep from * to end, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *336 dc*.
Round 19: Change to yarn C, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in each dc to end, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *336 dc*. Break yarn, leaving a long end to join to back.

BACK

Using a US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook and yarn L, make a magic ring.
Round 1: Ch3 (counts as 1dc throughout), 1dc into the ring, [ch1, 2dc into the ring] 5 times, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *Six 2-dc groups*.
Round 2: Sl st in next st, sl st in ch sp, ch3, (1dc, ch1, 2dc) in same sp as sl st, *ch1, (2dc, ch1, 2dc) in next sp; rep from * to end of round, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *Twelve 2-dc groups*.
Round 3: Sl st in next st, sl st in ch sp, ch4 (counts as 1dc and ch1 throughout), 3dc in next ch sp, *ch1, 3dc in next ch sp; rep from * to end of round, ch1, 2dc in same ch sp as first sl st, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch. *Twelve 3-dc groups*.
Round 4: Sl st in ch sp, ch3, 2dc in same sp, *ch1, 3dc in next ch sp; rep from * to end of round, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 5 (inc): Ch4, *(3dc, ch1, 3dc) in next ch sp, ch1; rep from * to last ch sp, (3dc, ch1, 2dc) in last ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch. *Twenty-four 3-dc groups*.
Round 6: Rep round 4.
Round 7: Ch4, 3dc in next ch sp, *ch1, 3dc in next ch sp; rep from * to last ch sp, 2dc in last ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch.
Round 8: Rep round 4.
Round 9: Rep round 7.
Round 10 (inc): Sl st in ch sp, ch3, 2dc in same sp, *ch1, (3dc, ch1, 3dc) in next ch sp, ch1, 3dc in next ch sp; rep from * to end of round, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Thirty-six 3-dc groups.
Cont in patt as set, working inc round every 5th round (working one more 3-dc group between (3dc, ch1, 3dc) increases on every inc round) until work measures 28in (71cm) in diameter.

FOR THE BORDER

Round 1: Ch1, 1sc in each st and ch sp to end, join with a sl st in first sc.
Round 2: Ch1, 1sc in each sc to end, join with a sl st in first sc.

Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends.
Place front and back pieces WS together with pillow form sandwiched inside.
Round 1: Using a US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook and yarn C, working through both layers, 1sc in each st to end, join with a sl st in first sc.
Fasten off and weave in ends.

If you don't have a round pillow form you can get a piece of foam cut to size—many craft stores offer this service.

CHAPTER TWO

WARM *and Rich*

DARK STAR

COUNTRY COLOURS

PURPLE PATCH

WINTER PANSIES

WAVES OF COLOUR

SPIKES AND STRIPES

BEEHIVE AFGHAN

FALL LEAVES

ORANGE JUICE

PARALLEL LINES

PRECIOUS METALS

DARK *Star*

Combining a series of increases and decreases while working in the round creates this striking star motif. Work in a gradient of colors for the most dramatic finish.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Berroco Comfort (50% nylon, 50% acrylic, approx. 211yd/193m per 3½oz/100g ball) Aran (worsted) weight yarn:

1 ball each of shades:
- Chalk 9700 (A)
- Buttercup 9712 (B)

2 balls each of shades:
- Goldenrod 9743 (C)
- Persimmon 9783 (D)

3 balls each of shades:
- Chianti 9782 (E)
- Dried Plum 9780 (F)

US size H/8 (5mm) hook
Yarn needle
Locking stitch markers/safety pins (optional)

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished throw measures 40in (102cm) square along each spine (from center to point)

GAUGE (TENSION)

12 dc x 7 rows = 4in (10cm) square, using US size H/8 (5mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the throw

Using a US size H/8 (5mm) hook and yarn A, make a magic ring.

Round 1: Ch6 (counts as 1dc and ch3), *1dc into the ring, ch3; rep from * 3 more times, join with a sl st in 3rd of 6-ch. *5 dc + five 3-ch sps*.

Round 2: Sl st in next ch sp, ch3 (counts as 1dc), (2dc, ch2, 3dc) in same ch sp, *(3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next ch sp; rep from * 3 more times, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *30 dc + five 2-ch sps*.

Round 3: Sl st in next st, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in next st, *(3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next ch sp, 1dc in each of next 2 sts, skip 2 sts, 1dc in each of next 2 sts; rep from * 4 more times, skip last st, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *50 dc + five 3-ch sps*.

Round 4: Sl st in next st, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in each of next 3 sts, *(3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next ch sp, 1dc in each of next 4 sts, skip 2 sts, 1dc in each of next 4 sts; rep from * 4 more times, skip last st, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *70 dc + five 3-ch sps*.

Using a magic ring at the center of the throw means that the yarn can be drawn up, closing the hole at the center for a neat finish.

MAKE IT YOURS/ You can increase the size of this throw by continuing in the pattern as set, but you will need to adjust the yarn quantities accordingly.

You can using locking stitch markers to help you to keep track of the increases and decreases as you work each round.

Round 5: Sl st in next st, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in each of next 5 sts, *(3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next ch sp, 1dc in each of next 6 sts, skip 2 sts, 1dc in each of next 6 sts; rep from * 4 more times, skip last st, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *90 dc + five 3-ch sps*.
Round 6: Sl st in next st, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in each of next 7 sts, *(3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next ch sp, 1dc in each of next 8 sts, skip 2 sts, 1dc in each of next 8 sts; rep from * 4 more times, skip last st, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *110 dc + five 3-ch sps*.
Cont in patt as set using foll color sequence:

Yarn B for 1 round
Yarn A for 1 round.
Yarn B for 5 rounds.
Yarn C for 1 round.
Yarn B for 1 round.
Yarn C for 5 rounds.
Yarn D for 1 round.
Yarn C for 1 round.
Yarn D for 5 rounds.
Yarn E for 1 round.
Yarn D for 1 round.
Yarn E for 5 rounds.
Yarn F for 1 round.
Yarn E for 1 round.
Yarn F for 5 rounds.

FOR THE BORDER

Round 1: Cont in yarn F, ch1, 1sc in each st and 2sc in each ch sp to end, join with a sl st in first sc.
Round 2: Ch1, 1sc in each st to end, join with a sl st in first sc.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

COUNTRY *Colours*

Make your own classic-style afghan using a variation of the granny square to create stripes. Work in a selection of colors for more impact.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Rowan Summerlite DK (100% cotton, approx. 142yd/130m per 50g/3½oz ball) DK (light worsted) weight yarn:

5 balls of shade Linen 460 (A)

4 balls each of shades:

Mushroom 454 (B)

Mocha 451 (C)

Pear 463 (D)

Khaki 461 (E)

Cantaloupe 456 (F)

US size G/6 (4mm) hook

Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished afghan is 44 x 75in (112 x 190cm)

GAUGE (TENSION)

Five 3-dc groups x 7 rows = 4in (10cm) square, using US size G/6 (4mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the afghan

Using a US size G/6 (4mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 152 sts.

Row 1: 1sc in 2nd ch from hook, 1sc in each ch to end. *151 sc*.

Row 2: Ch3 (counts as 1dc throughout), 1dc in st at base of 3-ch, *skip 2 sts, 3dc in next st; rep from * to last 3 sts, skip 2 sts, 2dc in last st.

Row 3: Ch3, 3dc in each sp between dc groups on previous row, 1dc in 3rd of 3-ch in previous row.
Row 4: Join in yarn B, ch3, 1dc in sp between last 1dc and 3dc of previous row, 3dc in each sp between dc groups on previous row to last sp, 2dc in last sp.

MAKE IT YOURS / Stripes work really well for this design, although you could work in blocks of color—or even a selection of shades of the same color for an ombré effect.

Row 5: Ch3, 3dc in each sp between dc groups on previous row, 1dc in 3rd of 3-ch in previous row.
Rows 4 and 5 form patt. Cont in patt as set using foll color sequence:
Yarn C for 2 rows.
Yarn D for 2 rows.
Yarn E for 2 rows.
Yarn F for 2 rows
Then cont in patt as set, working color sequence as foll 13 times (so 14 times in total):
Yarn A for 2 rows.
Yarn B for 2 rows.
Yarn C for 2 rows.
Yarn D for 2 rows.
Yarn E for 2 rows.
Yarn F for 2 rows.
Next row: Using yarn F, ch3, skip 3dc, 1sc in next sp, *ch2, 1sc in next sp, rep from * to last dc group, ch3, skip 3dc, 1sc in 3rd of 3-ch in previous row.
Fasten off.

FOR THE BORDER

Round 1: Join in yarn A, ch1, work a sc border around entire edge of work, working 1sc in each stitch and ch along top and bottom edges, approx. 2sc in each row end and (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in each corner, join with a sl st in first sc.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends, and block as desired to neaten.

Changing yarn color so frequently leaves lots of ends to weave in; hold the yarn ends against the work as you change color, and work the stitches to secure the ends as you go.

When working the border, be sure to maintain an even gauge to keep the edges of the afghan flat.

PURPLE *Patch*

This delicate design is created by working around the square from the center outwards, each row building on the shape of the shell design—play this up by working in bold stripes of color.

SKILL RATING: ●●●

MATERIALS

Rowan Cotton Glacé (100% cotton, approx. 125yd/115m per 1¾oz/50g ball) light worsted (DK) weight yarn:

3 balls each of shades:

- Oyster 730 (A)
- Rose 861 (B)
- Blood Orange 445 (C)
- Precious 867 (D)
- Winsor 849 (E)
- Ivy 812 (F)

US size G/6 (4mm) hook

Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 40in (102cm) square

GAUGE (TENSION)

First 5 rounds measure 4in (10cm) square, using US size G/6 (4mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

Make shell – (4dc, ch2, picot, 4dc) in ch sp
Picot – ch2, sl st in first ch

For the blanket

Using a US size G/6 (4mm) hook and yarn A, make a magic ring.
Round 1: Ch4 (counts as 1dc and ch1 throughout), *1dc into the ring, ch1; rep from * 6 more times, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch. *8 dc + eight 1-ch sps*.
Round 2: Ch1, *1sc in next ch sp, make shell in next ch sp; rep from * 3 more times, join with a sl st in first sc. *4 shells + 4 sc*.
Round 3: Ch4, (1dc, ch3, 1dc, ch1, 1dc) in first sc, *ch4, skip shell, (1dc, ch1, 1dc, ch3, 1dc, ch1, 1dc) in next sc for corner; rep from * twice more, ch4, sl st in 3rd of 4-ch.
Round 4: Ch3 (counts as 1dc throughout), (3dc, ch2, picot, 4dc) in first 1-ch sp, 1sc in next 3-ch sp for corner, make shell in next 1-ch sp, *1sc in 4-ch sp, make shell in next 1-ch sp, 1sc in next 3-ch sp for corner, make shell in next 1-ch sp; rep from * twice more, 1sc in last 4-ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch, turn, sl st in sc just worked, turn.
Round 5: Ch4, 1dc in same st, ch4, skip shell, *(1dc, ch1, 1dc, ch3, 1dc, ch1, 1dc) in next corner sc for corner, ch4, skip shell, (1dc, ch1, 1dc) in next sc, ch4, skip shell; rep from * to last corner sc, (1dc, ch1, 1dc, ch3, 1dc, ch1, 1dc) in last corner sc for corner, ch4, skip last shell, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch.

MAKE IT YOURS/ For a more subtle finish, select one or two tonal shades and work in an ombré style.

Round 6: Change to yarn B, ch3, (3dc, ch2, picot, 4dc) in first 1-ch sp, 1sc in 4-ch sp, *make shell in next 1-ch sp, 1sc in 3-ch sp for corner, make shell in next 1-ch sp, 1sc in 4-ch sp, make shell in next 1-ch sp, 1sc in 4-ch sp; rep from * to last corner, make shell in next 1-ch sp, 1sc in 3-ch sp for corner, make shell in next 1-ch sp, 1sc in last 4-ch sp, join with a sl st 3rd of 3-ch, turn, sl st in sc just worked, turn.
Round 7: Ch4, 1dc in same st, *[ch4, skip shell, (1dc, ch1, 1dc) in next sc] to corner, ch4, skip shell, (1dc, ch1, 1dc, ch3, 1dc, ch1, 1dc) in corner sc for corner; rep from * 3 more times, ch4, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch.
Round 8: Ch3, (3dc, ch2, picot, 4dc) in first 1-ch sp, *[1sc in 4-ch sp, make shell in next 1-ch sp] to corner 3-ch sp, 1sc in 3-ch sp corner, make shell st in next 1-ch sp; rep from * 3 more times, 1sc in 4-ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch, turn, sl st in sc just worked, turn.
Round 9: Ch4, 1dc in same st, *[ch4, skip shell, (1dc, ch1, 1dc) in next sc] to corner, ch4, skip shell, (1dc, ch1, 1dc, ch3, 1dc, ch1, 1dc) in corner sc for corner; rep from * 3 more times, ch4, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch.
Rounds 8 to 9 form patt, cont in patt as set using foll color sequence:
Yarn C for 4 rounds.
Yarn D for 4 rounds.
Yarn E for 4 rounds.
Yarn F for 8 rounds.
Yarn E for 4 rounds.
Yarn D for 4 rounds.
Yarn C for 4 rounds.
Yarn B for 4 rounds.
Yarn A for 3 rounds.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

Tips

Blocking the blanket will help to make a feature of the picot stitches on the shell motifs. Weave in the ends as neatly as possible to give a professional finish.

WINTER *Pansies*

The traditional style of the granny square is worked in rows here, with increases and decreases to create a dramatic chevron effect.

SKILL RATING: ●●●

MATERIALS

Bernat Super Value (100% acrylic, approx. 425yd/389m per 7oz/200g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:
1 ball each of shades:
White 07391 (A)
Bright Teal 53202 (B)
Lilac 53317 (C)
Magenta 53402 (D)
Aqua 53201 (E)
US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook
Locking stitch marker/safety pin (optional)
Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 37 x 60in (94 x 152cm)

GAUGE (TENSION)

Four and a half 3-dc clusters x 5 rows = 4in (10cm) square, using US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the blanket

Using a US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 143 sts.

Row 1: 3dc in 6th ch from hook (skipped 5-ch counts as 1dc and skipped 2 ch), *[skip 2 ch, 3dc in next ch] 3 times, ch2, 3dc in next ch, [skip 2 ch, 3dc in next ch] 3 times, skip 3 ch, 3dc in next ch; rep from * to end, finishing last repeat with skip 2 ch, 1dc in last ch. *Forty-eight 3-dc clusters*.

Row 2: Change to yarn B, ch3 (counts as 1dc throughout), *[3dc in next sp between clusters] 3 times, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, [3dc in next sp between clusters] 3 times, skip 1 sp; rep from *to last st, 1dc in last st.

Row 3: Change to yarn C, ch3, *[3dc in next sp between clusters] 3 times, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, [3dc in next sp between clusters] 3 times, skip 1 sp; rep from * to last st, 1dc in last st.

MAKE IT YOURS / Create thicker stripes by working more rows in each shade before changing to the next color yarn.

Row 4: Change to yarn D, ch3, *[3dc in next sp between clusters] 3 times, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, [3dc in next sp between clusters] 3 times, skip 1 sp; rep from * to last st, 1dc in last st.
Row 5: Change to yarn E, ch3, *[3dc in next sp between clusters] 3 times, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, [3dc in next sp between clusters] 3 times, skip 1 sp; rep from * to last st, 1dc in last st.
Row 6: Change to yarn A, ch3, *[3dc in next sp between clusters] 3 times, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, [3dc in next sp between clusters] 3 times, skip 1 sp; rep from * to last st, 1dc in last st.
Rows 2 to 6 form patt, cont in patt as set until work measures 60in (152cm), ending after a yarn A row.
Fasten off.

FOR THE BORDER

Round 1: With RS facing, using a US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook, join yarn E in first st after top right corner, ch1, *1sc in each st to next corner, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner, 2sc in each row end to corner, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner; rep from * once more, join with a sl st in first sc.
Round 2: Ch1, *1sc in each st to next corner, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner sp; rep from * 3 more times, 1sc in each st to end, join with a sl st in first sc.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

You can use a locking stitch marker to mark out the third stitch in the chain, to help you see where to insert the hook at the end of the next row.

Adding the border is a great way to keep the sides of the blanket neat —be sure to keep the yarn joins flush to the work to keep the border even.

Waves OF COLOUR

Working with simple increasing and decreasing creates a repeated ripple pattern across this blanket. Select a combination of tonal colors to play up the design.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Berroco Modern Cotton (60% cotton, 40% synthetic, approx. 209yd/191m per 3½oz/100g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:

2 balls each of shades:
- Point Judith 1645 (A)
- Bristol 1658 (B)
- Del 1627 (C)
- Matunuck 1652 (D)
- Piper 1603 (E)

US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook
Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 42 x 75in (106 x 190cm)

GAUGE (TENSION)

17 dc x 7 rows = 4in (10cm) square in ripple patt, using US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the blanket

Using a US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 154 sts.

Row 1: 1sc in 2nd ch from hook, 1sc in each ch to end. *153 sc*.

Row 2: Ch3 (counts as 1dc throughout), 1dc in same st, 2dc in each of next 2 sts, skip next st, [1dc in next st, skip next st] 5 times, *2dc in each of next 6 sts, skip next st, [1dc in next st, skip next st] 5 times; rep from * to last 3 sts, 2dc in each st to end. *153 dc*.

Row 3: Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 1sc FLO in each stitch to end. *153 sc FLO*.

Row 4: Ch3, 1dc in same st, 2dc in each of next 2 sts, skip next st, [1dc in next st, skip foll st] 5 times, *2dc in each of next 6 sts, skip next st, [1dc in next st, skip foll st] 5 times; rep from * to last 3 sts, 2dc in each st to end. *153 dc*.

Tips

You can use locking stitch markers to help keep your place in the pattern if needed.

Holding the yarn against the work to secure it when you change colors will save time weaving ends in when finishing the blanket.

Row 5: Ch1, 1sc FLO in each st to end. *153 sc FLO.* Rows 2–5 form patt, cont in pattern as set in foll color sequence:
Yarn B for 4 rows.
Yarn C for 4 rows.
Yarn D for 4 rows.
Yarn E for 4 rows.
Yarn A for 4 rows.
Cont until work measures 75in (190cm), ending after 4 rows in yarn E.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

MAKE IT YOURS / You can create wider stripes by simply working the four-row repeat more times in each color.

SPIKES AND *Stripes*

This surface design is created by working into previous rows to give different lengths of spikes—it is a surprisingly simple technique.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Lion Brand 24/7 Cotton (100% cotton, approx. 186yd/170m per 3½oz/100g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:

4 balls each of shades:
Jade 178 (A)
Goldenrod 158 (B)

Mint 156 (C)
US size H/8 (5mm) hook
Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 26 x 55in (66 x 140cm)

GAUGE (TENSION)

13 sc x 15 rows = 4in (10cm) square in single crochet, using US size H/8 (5mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATION

Spike st (spike stitch) – insert hook through next st on specified row below, then work a single crochet

For the throw

Using a US size H/8 (5mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 62 sts.
Row 1: 1sc in 2nd ch from hook, 1sc in each st to end. *61 sc.*
Rows 2–6: Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 1sc in each st to end.

Carry the yarns against the work when you change color to save time weaving the ends in when finishing the project.

Try to maintain the gauge as you create the long spike stitches, so as not to gather up the work.

Row 7: Change to yarn B, ch1, 1sc in first st, *Spike st in 2nd row below, Spike st in 3rd row below, Spike st in 4th row below, Spike st in 3rd row below, Spike st in 2nd row below, 1sc in next st; rep from * to end.
Rows 8–12: Ch1, 1sc in each st to end.
Row 13: Change to yarn C, ch1, 1sc in first st, *Spike st in 2nd row below, Spike st in 3rd row below, Spike st in 4th row below, Spike st in 3rd row below, Spike st in 2nd row below, 1sc in next st; rep from * to end.
Rows 14–18: Ch1, 1sc in each st to end.
Row 19: Change to yarn A, ch1, 1sc in first st, *Spike st in 2nd row below, Spike st in 3rd row below, Spike st in 4th row below, Spike st in 3rd row below, Spike st in 2nd row below, 1sc in next st; rep from * to end.
Rows 20–24: Ch1, 1sc in each st to end.
Cont in patt as set until work measures 55in (140cm).
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

MAKE IT YOURS / Create your own surface design by alternating the length at which you work the long spike stitches.

Beehive AFGHAN

Hexagons never go out of style. Work with modern shades to create your own dramatic design.

SKILL RATING: ●●●

MATERIALS

Brown Sheep Company Lamb's Pride Worsted (85% wool, 15% mohair, approx. 189yd/173m per 4oz/113g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:

2 balls each of shades:
Sunburst Gold M14 (A)
Autumn Harvest M22 (B)
Turquoise Depths M187 (C)

1 ball of shade Blue Flannel M82 (D)

Caron Simply Soft (100% acrylic, approx. 315yd/288m per 6oz/170g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:

1 ball of shade White 9701 (E)

US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 36 x 46in (91.5 x 117cm)

GAUGE (TENSION)

12 dc sts x 6 rows = 4in (10cm), using US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the afghan

HEXAGON

Using a US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook and yarn A, make a magic ring.

Round 1: Ch3 (counts as 1dc throughout), 1dc into the ring, ch2, *2dc into the ring, ch2; rep from * 4 more times, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *12 dc*.

Round 2: Ch3, 1dc in next st, *(1dc, ch2, 1dc) in next ch sp, 1dc in each of next 2 sts; rep from * 4 more times, (1dc, ch2, 1dc) in last ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *24 dc*.

Round 3: Ch3, 1dc in each of next 2 sts, *(1dc, ch2, 1dc) in next ch sp, 1dc in each of next 4 sts; rep from * 4 more times, (1dc, ch2, 1dc) in last ch-sp, 1dc in next st, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *36 dc*.

Round 4: Ch3, 1dc in each of next 3 sts, *(1dc, ch2, 1dc) in next ch sp, 1dc in each of next 6 sts; rep from * 4 more times, (1dc, ch2, 1dc) in last ch sp, 1dc in each of next 2 sts, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *48 dc*.

Round 5: Ch3, 1dc in each of next 4 sts, *(1dc, ch2, 1dc) in next ch sp, 1dc in each of next 8 sts; rep from * 4 more times, (1dc, ch2, 1dc) in last ch sp, 1dc in each of next 3 sts, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *60 dc*.

Fasten off.

Rep to make 12 hexagons in yarn A, 12 hexagons in yarn B, 11 hexagons in yarn C and 7 hexagons in yarn D, 42 hexagons in total.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

Arrange the hexagons into six rows of seven blocks in desired design.

Using a US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook and yarn E, working through both layers, work through the back loops only and join with 1sc in each st.

The center of each hexagon is made with a magic ring; be sure to draw these up fully to close the hole for a neater finish.

When joining, arrange the pieces as desired and try to work in long continuous lines to avoid having lots of extra ends to sew in.

MAKE IT YOURS/ Work with an even number of each color hexagon and arrange to create your own geometric design.

FULL *Leaves*

Granny stripes are a firm favorite—transform this classic crochet panel into a cosy pillow cover.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Berroco Comfort (50% nylon, 50% acrylic, approx. 210yd/193m per 3½oz/100g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:

3 balls of shade Chalk 9700 (A)

1 ball each of shades:

Sprig 9721 (B)

Pumpkin 9724(C)

Hummus 9720 (D)

US size H/8 (5mm) and US size I/9 (5.5mm) hooks Yarn needle

25in (63cm) square pillow form

3 buttons, ¾in (2cm) diameter

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished pillow is 25in (63cm) square

GAUGE (TENSION)

8 dc clusters (incl dc worked in spaces on foll row) x 7 rows = 4in (10cm), using US size H/8 (5mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the pillow

Using a US size H/8 (5mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 74 sts.

Row 1: 1sc in 2nd ch from hook, 1sc in each ch to end. *73 sc*.

Row 2: Ch3 (counts as 1dc throughout), 1dc in st at base of 3-ch, *skip 2 sts, 3dc in next st; rep from * to last 3 sts, skip 2 sts, 2dc in last st. *73 dc*.

Row 3: Change to yarn B, ch3, 3dc in each sp between dc groups on previous row, 1dc in 3rd of 3-ch in previous row. *74 dc*.

Row 4: Change to yarn A, ch3, 1dc in sp between last 1dc and 3dc on previous row, 3dc in each sp between dc groups on previous row to last sp, 2dc in last sp. *73 dc*.

Row 5: Change to yarn C, ch3, 3dc in each sp between dc groups on previous row, 1dc in 3rd of 3-ch on previous row.
74 dc.

Rows 4 and 5 form patt. Cont in patt as set using foll color sequence, beginning with yarn A:

Yarn A for 1 row.
Yarn D for 1 row.
Yarn A for 1 row.
Yarn B for 1 row.
Yarn A for 1 row.
Yarn C for 1 row.

Cont in patt as set until work measures 45in (114cm), ending with a yarn A row.

Fasten off.

MAKE IT YOURS / Change the tone of this make by switching the white yarn for a darker shade, like gray or black.

Tips

Sew on the buttons securely; if your yarn needle doesn't pass easily through the button's hole, try using a needle and matching sewing cotton instead.

Changing yarn color so frequently leaves lots of ends to weave in; hold the ends of the yarn against the work as you change color, and work the stitches to secure the ends as you go.

FOR THE BORDER

Round 1: With RS facing, using a US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook, join yarn A in first st after first corner of either long side, ch1, work a sc border around entire edge of work, working approx. 2sc in each row end, 1sc in each stitch and ch along top and bottom edges, and (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in each corner, join with a sl st in first sc.

Round 2: Ch1, *1sc in each st to next corner, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner; rep from * twice more, create buttonholes as foll: 1sc in each of next 5 sts, ch6, 1sc in each of next 32 sts, ch6, 1sc in each of next 32 sts, ch6, 1sc in each st to next corner, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner, join with a sl st in first sc.

Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

With WS facing, fold crochet panel in half, aligning two shorter edges, and join two side seams by working 1sc in each st, working through both layers.

Fasten off.

Sew on buttons to correspond with buttonholes.

ORANGE *Juice*

Bobble stitch is a great way to add a fun and tactile finish to a simple pillow cover. These clever stitches are created by looping the yarn over the hook multiple times and drawing back through, repeating this to create a fantastic texture.

SKILL RATING: ●●●

MATERIALS

Stylecraft Special Aran (100% acrylic, approx. 214yd/196m per 3½oz/100g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:
5 balls of shade Spice 1711
US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook
Yarn needle
25in (63cm) square pillow form
4 buttons, ¾in (2cm) diameter

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished pillow is 25½in (64cm) square

GAUGE (TENSION)

12 sc x 14 rows = 4in (10cm) in stitch patt, using US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATION

Bobble– yoh, insert hook in st, yoh, draw yarn through st, yoh, draw yarn through first 2 loops (2 loops on hook), *yoh, take hook through st, yoh, draw yarn through st; rep until 10 loops on hook, yoh, draw yarn through all loops

For the pillow

FRONT

Using a US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook, make a foundation ch of 76 sts.
Row 1: 1sc in 2nd ch from hook, 1sc in each ch to end. *75 sts*.
Row 2: Ch1, 1sc in each st to end.
Row 3: Ch1, 1sc in each of first 3 sts, *bobble in next st, 1sc in each of next 3 sts; rep from * to end.
Rows 4–6: Ch1, 1sc in each st to end. *75 sts*.

Row 7: Ch1, 1sc in each of first 5 sts, *bobble in next st, 1sc in each of next 3 sts; rep from * to last 5 sts, 1sc in each of last 5 sts.
Rows 8–10: Ch1, 1sc in each st to end. *75 sts*.
Rows 3 to 10 form patt. Rep them until work measures 25in (63.5cm), ending after a row 3 bobble row.
Next row: Ch1, 1sc in each st to end. *75 sts*.
Rep last row once more.
Buttonhole row: Ch1, 1sc in each of next 15 sts, ch2, skip 2 sts, 1sc in each of next 12 sts, ch2, skip 2 sts, 1sc in each of next 14 sts, ch2, skip 2 sts, 1sc in each of next 12 sts, ch2, skip 2 sts, 1sc in each st to end.
Next row: Ch1, 1sc in each st to end. *75 sts*.
Rep last row twice more.
Fasten off.

BACK

Using a US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook, make a magic ring.
Round 1: Ch3 (counts as 1dc throughout), 2dc into the ring, *ch2, 3dc into the ring; rep from * twice more, ch2, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.

Round 2: Ch4 (counts as 1dc and ch1 throughout), *(3dc, 2ch, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1; rep from * twice more, (3dc, ch2, 2dc) in last 2-ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch.
Round 3: Ch3, 2dc in first 1-ch sp, *ch1, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, 3dc in next 1-ch sp; rep from * twice more, ch1, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in last 2-ch sp, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 4: Ch4, 3dc in first 1-ch sp, *ch1, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, 3dc in next 1-ch sp, ch1, 3dc in next 1-ch sp; rep from * twice more, ch1, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, 2dc in last 1-ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch.
Cont in patt as set for a further 15 rounds, or until square measures 25in (63.5cm).
Next round: Ch1, *1sc in each st to corner, (1sc, 1ch, 1sc) in corner; rep from *4 times, join with a sl st in first sc.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends.
Place front and back panels WS together, with front panel facing and the buttonhole edge at the top. Using a US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook, join in the yarn 10 sts before top left corner, *working through both layers, 1sc in each st to corner, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner; rep from * 3 more times (working 1sc in each row end), (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in last corner, 1sc in each of next 2 sts. Fasten off, leaving opening in top edge for inserting the pillow.
Fasten off.
Sew on buttons to correspond with buttonholes along opening.

Tips

Try to maintain the length of the loops when bringing the yarn around the hook, as this will create even bobble stitches.

To find the correct position for the buttons, lay the cover flat and align the top edge. Then use pins to mark the position of the buttons through the buttonholes onto the other side.

MAKE IT YOURS / Create a reversible design by working an additional bobble stitch panel for the back of the pillow. You will need to increase the yarn quantities accordingly.

PARALLEL *Lines*

The surface of a pillow panel made with simple stitches can be embellished by working surface crochet across the right side of the fabric. This pillow makes use of variegated yarns for added contrast.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Lion Brand Vanna's Choice (100% acrylic, approx. 170yd/156m per 3½oz/100g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:
2 balls of shade Silver Grey 149 (A)
Lion Brand Landscapes (100% acrylic, approx. 147yd/134m per 3½oz/100g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:
1 ball of shade Desert Spring 204 (B)
US size J/10 (6mm) hook
Yarn needle
25in (63cm) square pillow form
Pillow cover or fabric to create backing

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished pillow is 25½in (64cm) square

GAUGE (TENSION)

10 hdc x 8 rows = 4in (10cm) square, using US size J/10 (6mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the panel

Using a US size J/10 (6mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 61 sts.
Row 1: 1hdc in 2nd ch from hook, 1hdc in each st to end. *60 hdc*.
Row 2: Ch2 (does not count as hdc), 1 hdc in each st to end. Cont working in rows of hdc until work measures 24in (61cm) square.

FOR THE BORDER

Round 1: 1ch, 1sc in each st to corner, (1sc, 1ch, 1sc) in corner; rep from * 4 times, join with a sl st in first sc.
Rounds 2–3: Rep round 1.
Fasten off.

ADD SURFACE CROCHET

Holding yarn on back of crochet panel, pass hook through to catch yarn, bring a loop through to surface. Push hook back through and catch yarn again, bring a loop through to surface and draw through loop on hook as though working a sl st. Rep to create patt of 5 vertical lines intersecting with 5 horizontal lines.

This panel can be stitched onto a pre-made pillow cover, or you can create your own cover in your choice of fabric.

The surface crochet stitches are worked with the yarn held underneath the crochet panel, and drawn up through to the surface.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends.
Place panel onto front of fabric pillow cover and stitch to secure.

To create your own fabric backing, cut two pieces of fabric to 18 x 27in (45 x 67.5cm). Fold 1in (2.5cm) to the WS around each side, press and sew in place. Place the two pieces together, both with RS facing up, to create a 25in (62.5cm) square panel—the pieces will overlap in the center to allow the pillow form to be inserted. With WS together, place the assembled fabric piece onto the crochet panel and sew around the outer edges.

MAKE IT YOURS/ Surface crochet can be used to add any motif you like; experiment with geometric or swirling designs.

PRECIOUS *Metals*

Make a statement pillow with dramatic chevrons, which are created by working increases and decreases across the length of the row.

SKILL RATING: ●●●

MATERIALS

Stylecraft Special Chunky (100% acrylic, approx. 157yd/144m per 3½oz/100g ball) bulky (chunky) weight yarn:
3 balls of shade Silver 1203 (A)
2 balls each of shades:
Copper 1029 (B)
Graphite 1063 (C)
US size J/10 (6mm) hook
Yarn needle
25in (63cm) square pillow form
4 x buttons, 1in (2.5cm) diameter
Locking stitch markers/safety pins (optional)

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished pillow is 25½in (64cm) square

GAUGE (TENSION)

10 dc x 6 rows = 4in (10cm) square, using US size J/10 (6mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATION

dc3tog (double crochet 3 stitches together) – *yoh, insert hook in next st, yoh, draw yarn through, yoh, draw through first 2 loops on hook; rep from * twice more, yoh, draw through rem 4 loops on hook

For the pillow

Using a US size J/10 (6mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 66 sts.
Row 1: 1dc in 3rd ch from hook (skipped ch2 does not count as dc), 1dc in each of next 6 sts, 3dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 6 sts, *dc3tog, 1dc in each of next 6 sts, 3dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 6 sts; rep from * to last 2 sts, dc2tog. *64 dc*.

Row 2: Ch3 (does not count as dc), skip first st at base of ch, 1dc in each of next 7 sts, 3dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 6 sts, *dc3tog, 1dc in each of next 6 sts, 3dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 6 sts, rep from * to last 2 sts, dc2tog. Row 2 forms patt. Change to yarn B and cont in patt as set, working 2 rows in each color until work measures 57½in (146cm), ending with 2 rows in yarn C.

FOR THE BORDER

Round 1: Beginning at right-hand corner of top edge, using a US size J/10 (6mm) hook and yarn A, ch1, work a sc border around entire edge of work, working 1sc in each dc along top edge, 1sc in each ch along bottom edge, approx. 2sc in each row end and 2sc in each corner, join with a sl st in first sc.

Stitch markers can be used to mark the positions of the increases and decreases along the row.

Hold the ends of the yarn against the work as you change color and work the stitches to secure the ends as you go.

Buttonhole round: Ch1, *1sc in each sc to chevron point of top edge, ch4, skip next sc; rep from * 3 more times, 1sc in each sc to end, join with a sl st in first sc. Four buttonhole loops made. Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends.
With WS facing, fold bottom edge of chevron panel up by 25in (63.5cm). Hold the side edges of the folded section together and,

using a US size J/10 (6mm) and yarn A and working through both layers, work 1sc in each st down side seam to join. Rep for 2nd side seam.
Fold the top edge down by 10in (25cm) for overlapping upper flap and sew four buttons in place to correspond with buttonhole loops.

HOTEL ROYAL
1258

CHAPTER THREE

NATURAL *and Natural*

RIVERBANK BLANKET

FIRESIDE FRIEND

SUMMER BREEZE

EARTH TONES

SPRING CROCUSES

MERMAID MAGIC

VINTAGE LACE GRANNY SQUARES

DIAGONAL LINES

THE SEA AT NIGHT

MANDALA MEDITATION

SIMPLE STRIPES

BERMUDA TRIANGLES

RIVERBANK *afghan*

Granny squares are some of the most iconic designs for crochet blankets. This large afghan is worked by alternating a variegated and a solid-color yarn to create a super-sized design in grassy greens.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Caron Simply Soft (100% acrylic, approx. 314yd/288m per 6oz/170g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:
2 balls of shade Off White 9702 (A)
Caron Cakes (80% acrylic, 20% wool, approx. 383yd/350m per 7oz/200g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:
2 balls of shade Pistachio 17020 (B)
US size H/8 (5mm) hook
Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished afghan is 50in (127cm) square

GAUGE (TENSION)

First 3 rounds measure approx. 4½in (11.5cm) square.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the afghan

Using a US size H/8 (5mm) hook and yarn A, make a magic ring.
Round 1: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 2dc into the ring, *ch2, 3dc into the ring; rep from * twice more, ch2, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 2: Join in yarn B, ch4 (counts as 1dc and ch1) *(3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1; rep from * twice more, (3dc, ch2, 2dc) in last 2-ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch.
Round 3: Change to yarn A, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 2dc in first 1-ch sp, *ch1, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, 3dc in next 1-ch sp; rep from * twice more, ch1, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in last 2-ch sp, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 4: Change to yarn B, ch4 (counts as 1dc and 1ch), 3dc in next 1-ch sp, *ch1, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, 3dc in next 1-ch sp, ch1, 3dc in next 1-ch sp; rep from * twice more, ch1, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, 2dc in last 1-ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch.
Cont in patt as set, working 3dc in each 1-ch sp and (3dc, 2ch, 3dc) in each 2-ch sp, for 30 more rounds (34 rounds in total) ending with a yarn B round.

FOR THE BORDER

Round 1: Using a US size H/8 (5mm) hook and yarn B, *1sc in each st and 1-ch sp to corner 2-ch sp, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner 2-ch sp; rep from * 3 more times, 1sc in each st and 1-ch sp to end, join with sl st in first st.
Round 2: Ch1, *1sc in each st to corner ch sp, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner ch sp; rep from * 3 more times, 1sc in each st to end, join with sl st in first st.
Fasten off

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

MAKE IT YOURS/ For a more flamboyant design, create tassels to secure to each corner, or add a length of fringing around the edge.

Tips

Holding the ends of the yarn against the work as you change color, and working the stitches to secure the ends as you go, will save time when finishing the afghan—and can be more efficient with the yarn!

The magic ring is a neat foundation at the center of the square, but can be a little fiddly to master. See page 116 for instructions; it is worth practicing as it can be drawn up neatly to close the hole in the center completely.

MAKE IT YOURS/ Make this without using a hook if you prefer; simply work the stitches using your hands instead!

FIRESIDE *Friend*

Make a striking addition to your interior with this statement design, worked in an ultrachunky merino yarn. You can throw it over an armchair, or sit on it in front of the fire.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

World of Wool Merino Jumbo Yarn (100% merino wool, approx. 50yd/45m per 2lb 4oz/1kg ball) arm knitting weight yarn:

- 1 ball of shade Terracotta (A)
- 2 balls of shade Flesh (B)
- 3 balls of shade Oyster (C)

US size U (25mm) hook

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is approx. 38¼in (97cm) square

GAUGE (TENSION)

Exact gauge is not essential in this project.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the rug

Finished blanket is approx. 38¼in (97cm) squareUsing a US size U (25mm) hook and yarn A, make a magic ring.
Round 1: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 2dc into the ring, *ch2, 3dc into the ring; rep from * twice more, ch2, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 2: Ch4 (counts as 1dc and ch1), *(3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1; rep from * twice more, (3dc, ch2, 2dc) in last 2-ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 3: Change to yarn B, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 2dc in first 1-ch sp, *ch1, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, 3dc in next 1-ch sp; rep from * twice more, ch1, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in last 2-ch sp, ch1, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 4: Ch4 (counts as 1dc and ch1), 3dc in next 1-ch sp, *ch1, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, 3dc in next 1-ch sp, ch1, 3dc in next 1-ch sp; rep from * twice more, ch1, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next 2-ch sp, ch1, 2dc in last 1-ch sp, join with a sl st in 3rd of 4-ch. Change to yarn C, cont in patt as set, working 3dc in each 1-ch sp and (3dc, 2ch, 3dc) in each 2-ch sp, for 2 more rounds (6 rounds in total).
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing.

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

Tips

This project becomes very heavy, so you might find it easier to lay the work on the sofa or a bed as you crochet.

You won't be able to thread this yarn onto a yarn needle to weave in the ends, so simply use your fingers or the hook to neatly guide the ends in and secure them.

SUMMER *Breeze*

Create a luxurious textured throw with puff stitch. These voluminous stitches, which are surprisingly easy yet very striking, are created by working additional loops of yarn around the hook.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Caron Simply Soft (100% acrylic, approx. 315yd/288m per 6oz/170g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:
3 balls of shade Chartreuse 9771 (A)
6 balls of shade Bone 9703 (B)
US size H/8 (5mm) hook
Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 42 x 60in (105 x 153cm)

GAUGE (TENSION)

5.5 sts x 7.5 rows = 4in (10cm) in puff stitch, using US size H/8 (5mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATION

PS (puff stitch) – *yoh, insert hook in st, yoh, draw yarn through, keeping yarn loops long; rep from * 5 more times, yoh, draw yarn through all loops on hook, ch1 to close st

For the throw

Using a US size H/8 (5mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 101 sts.
Row 1: 1PS in 3rd ch from hook (skipped ch2 counts as ch sp), ch1, skip next ch, *1PS in next ch, ch1, skip next ch; rep from * to last ch, 1PS in last ch. *50 PS*.
Row 2: Ch2 (counts as ch sp), skip first PS, *1PS in next ch sp, ch1, skip 1 PS, rep from * to last 2-ch sp, 1PS in last 2-ch sp.
Row 2 forms patt. Cont in patt as set until work measures 20in (50cm). Join in yarn B, cont until work measures 60in (153cm).

Next row: *1sc in next st at top of PS, 1sc in next ch sp; rep from * to end.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

Tips

Try to create loops of a similar size when working each puff stitch; this will help to keep the finished piece really neat.

This stitch requires a lot of yarn, so be sure to have the full amount before you begin.

MAKE IT YOURS / Adapt the design by working in stripes of color rather than a simple colorblock band.

EARTH *Tones*

Nothing is quite as cozy and comforting as this super-bulky blanket. It alternates two rows to create the pattern, so it's ideal for a quick-and-easy project.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Rowan Big Wool (100% wool, approx. 87yd/80m per 3½oz/100g ball) super bulky (super chunky) weight yarn:

4 balls each of shades:
- Linen 048 (A)
- Concrete 061 (B)
- Biscotti 082 (C)
- Prize 064 (D)
- Glum 056 (E)

US size Q (15mm) hook
Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 35 x 65in (89 x 165cm)

GAUGE (TENSION)

6 sts x 4 rows = 4in (10cm) square.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the blanket

Using a US size Q (15mm) hook and yarn A held double, work a foundation ch of 51 sts.

Row 1: 1sc in 2nd ch from hook, 1sc in each ch to end. *50 sc*.

Row 2: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in next st, 1dc in each st to end. *50 dc*.

Row 3: Ch1 (does not count as st), 1sc in each st to end. *50 sc*.

Rows 2 and 3 form patt, cont in patt as set, using foll color sequence:

Yarn A for 12 more rows, ending on sc row.

Yarn B for 14 rows, ending on sc row.

Yarn C for 14 rows, ending on sc row.
Yarn D for 14 rows, ending on sc row.
Yarn E for 14 rows, ending on sc row.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

MAKE IT YOURS/ This is worked in a tonal palette of yarns, but you could work in two colors for stripes, or more contrasting colors for a striking look.

Tips

This pattern alternates between a row of single crochet and a row of double crochet; looking at the row below will help you to work out

what you need to work on the current row.

The dense finish is created by holding the yarn double—be sure that you are catching both strands of yarn each time you work a stitch.

SPRING *Crocuses*

Make the most of variegated yarns to add a flash of color to these circlecentered granny squares.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Lily Sugar 'n Cream Super Size Ombres (100% cotton, approx. 150yd/138m per 3oz/85g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:
3 balls of shade Crown Jewels (A)
Lily Sugar 'n Cream Super Size Solids (100% cotton, approx. 200yd/184m per 4oz/113g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:
5 balls of shade Ecru (B)
US size H/8 (5mm) hook
Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 44in (112cm) square

GAUGE (TENSION)

Each finished square = 7½in (19cm) square.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the blanket

SQUARE (MAKE 25)

Using a US size H/8 (5mm) hook and yarn A, make a magic ring.
Round 1: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 11dc into the ring, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *12 dc*.
Round 2: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in same st, 2dc in each st to end, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *24 dc*.
Round 3: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in same st, 1dc in next st, *2dc in next st, 1dc in next st; rep from * to end, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *36 dc*.

SQUARE OFF THE CIRCLE

Change to yarn B.
Round 4: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in same st, ch1, 2dc in next st, 1hdc in each of next 2 sts, 1sc in each of next 3 sts, 1hdc in each of next 2 sts, *2dc in next st, ch1, 2dc in next st, 1hdc in each of next 2 sts, 1sc in each of next 3 sts, 1hdc in each of next 2 sts; rep from * twice more, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *44 sts + four 1-ch sps*.

Tip

You might find it quicker to work in a production-line style, first creating all the circles for the centers of the squares, then turning them all into squares before joining them together.

MAKE IT YOURS/ Add in circles in solid shades to create a contrast with the variegated yarns.

Tip

Using a slip stitch to join the blocks together leaves a neat flush stitch on the surface.

Round 5: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in next st, (2dc, ch1, 2dc) in corner sp, *1dc in each st to next corner sp, (2dc, ch1, 2dc) in corner sp; rep from * twice more, 1dc in each st to end, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *60 sts + four 1-ch sps*.
Round 6: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), *1dc in each st to next corner sp, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in corner sp; rep from * 3 more times, 1dc in each st to end, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *76 sts + four 1-ch sps*.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Place blocks RS up in five rows of five. Using a US size H/8 (5mm) hook and yarn B, join with sl st through matching sts on each block.

FOR THE BORDER

Round 1: With RS facing, using a US size H/8 (5mm) hook, join yarn A in first st after any corner, ch1, *1sc in each st to next corner, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner; rep from * 3 more times, join with a sl st in first sc.
Rounds 2–4: Change to Yarn B, ch3 (counts as 1dc), *1dc in each st to next corner sp, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in corner sp; rep from * 3 more times, 1dc in each st to end, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Rounds 5–6: Change to Yarn A, ch1, *1sc in each st to next corner sp, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner sp; rep from * 3 more times, 1sc in each st to end, join with a sl st in first sc.
Fasten off.

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

MERMAID *Magic*

Transform yourself into a cozy mermaid with this seamed body-shaped blanket, complete with fun tail fins!

SKILL RATING: ●●●

MATERIALS

Stylecraft Special XL Super Chunky (100% acrylic, approx. 148yd/136m per 7oz/200g ball) super bulky (super chunky) weight yarn:

4 balls of shade Sage 3056 (A)
2 balls of shade Duck Egg 1820 (B)

US size N/15 (10mm) and US size Q (15mm) hooks

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 43in (109cm) long (excluding fin)

GAUGE (TENSION)

6 dc x 3.5 rows = 4in (10cm) square, using US size N/15 (10mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the tail

Using a US size N/15 (10mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 67 sts.

Row 1: 1dc in 3rd ch from hook, 1dc in each st to end. *65 dc*.
Row 2: Ch3 (counts as 1dc throughout), 1dc in each st to end.
Row 3: Change to yarn B, ch3, 1dc in each st to end.
Row 4: Ch3, 1dc in each st to end.
Rows 5–6: Change to yarn A, ch3, 1dc in each st to end.
Rows 7–8: Change to yarn B, ch3, 1dc in each st to end.
Rows 9–10: Change to yarn A, ch3, 1dc in each st to end.
Row 11: Change to yarn B, ch3, dc2tog, 1dc in each st to last 3 sts, dc2tog, 1dc in last st. *63 dc*.
Row 12: Ch3, 1dc in each st to end.
Row 13: Change to yarn A, ch3, dc2tog, 1dc in each st to last 3 sts, dc2tog, 1dc in last st. *61 dc*.
Row 14: Ch3, 1dc in each st to end.

Row 15: Change to yarn B, ch3, dc2tog, 1dc in each st to last 3 sts, dc2tog, 1dc in last st. *59 dc*.
Row 16: Ch3, 1dc in each st to end.
Row 17: Change to yarn A, ch3, dc2tog, 1dc in each st to last 3 sts, dc2tog, 1dc in last st. *57 dc*.
Row 18: Ch3, 1dc in each st to end.

You can check the length of the blanket as you work by holding it against your body, increasing or decreasing as needed.

MAKE IT YOURS / You can increase the length of the blanket by adding more rows to the sections before and after the decrease section—just be sure to increase the yarn amounts to accommodate this.

Row 19: Change to yarn B, ch3, dc2tog, 1dc in each st to last 3 sts, dc2tog, 1dc in last st. *55 dc*.
Row 20: Ch3, 1dc in each st to end.
Row 21: Change to yarn A, ch3, dc2tog, 1dc in each st to last 3 sts, dc2tog, 1dc in last st. *53 dc*.
Row 22: Ch3, dc2tog, 1dc in each st to last 3 sts, dc2tog, 1dc in last st. *51 dc*.
Row 23: Change to yarn B, ch3, dc2tog, 1dc in each st to last 3 sts, dc2tog, 1dc in last st. *49 dc*.
Row 24: Ch3, dc2tog, 1dc in each st to last 3 sts, dc2tog, 1dc in last st. *47 dc*.
Row 25: Change to yarn A, ch3, dc2tog, 1dc in each st to last 3 sts, dc2tog, 1dc in last st. *45 dc*.
Row 26: Ch3, dc2tog, 1dc in each st to last 3 sts, dc2tog, 1dc in last st. *43 dc*.
Row 27: Change to yarn B, ch3, 1dc in each st to end.
Cont for 13 more rows (or to desired length).
Fasten off.

For the tail fin (make 2)

Using a US size Q (15mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 22 sts.
Row 1: 1dc in 3rd ch from hook, 1dc in each st to end. *20 dc*.
Row 2: Ch3, 1dc in each st to end.
Row 3: Ch3 (counts as 1dc throughout), dc2tog, 1dc in each st to end. *19 dc*.
Row 4: Ch3, 1dc in each st to end.
Row 5: Ch3, dc2tog, 1dc in each st to end. *18 dc*.
Row 6: Ch3, 1dc in each st to end.
Row 7: Ch3, dc2tog twice, 1dc in each st to end. *16 dc*.
Row 8: Ch3, 1dc in each st to end.
Row 9: Ch3, dc2tog twice, 1dc in each st to end. *14 dc*.

Row 10: Ch3, 1dc in each st to end.
Row 11: Ch3, dc2tog twice, 1dc in each st to end. *12 dc*.
Fasten off.
Make second piece to match, don't cut yarn, place with short edges aligned to first piece and join with a sl st through each st.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Fold the outer edges of the tail blanket in towards the center. Working from the bottom (narrower) end and using the US size Q (15mm) hook and yarn B, begin joining the center back seam using sl st. Once the center back seam is 21in (54cm) long, fasten off.
Place the fin centered in the bottom of blanket—there will be 8in (20cm) excess either side. Using the US size Q (15mm) hook and yarn B, work with sl st through all 3 layers to close the base of the tail, securing the center section of the fin as you work.
Fold the two outer corners of the fin (the excess at each side) inwards and sew to secure.
Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

The seams are worked with slip stitches; leave longer yarn ends that can be used to work these seams.

VINTAGE LACE

Granny Squares

Inspired by vintage china crockery, these lacy granny squares can be joined-as-you-go for a quick and easy finish.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Schachenmayr Catania (100% cotton, approx. 137yd/125m per 1¾oz/50g ball) sport (5-ply) weight yarn:
- 10 balls of shade Creme 0130 (A)
- 5 balls of shade Hellblau 0173 (B)

US size G/6 (4mm) hook
Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 45in (114cm) square

GAUGE (TENSION)

Each square measures 4in (10cm) square, using US size G/6 (4mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

PS (puff stitch) – *yoh, insert hook into sp, yoh, draw yarn through, keeping yarn loops long; rep from * 5 more times, yoh, draw yarn through all loops on hook, ch1 to close st

Picot – insert hook in ch just below hook, sl st to create small picot

For the blanket

LACE GRANNY SQUARE

Using a US size G/6 (4mm) hook and yarn A, make a magic ring.
Round 1: 12sc into the ring, join with a sl st in first sc. *12 sts*.
Round 2: Ch5 (counts as 1dc + 2ch), *1dc in next sc, ch2; rep from * 10 more times, join with a sl st in 3rd of 5-ch. *12 sts*.
Round 3: *PS in next ch sp, ch2; rep from * to end, join with a sl st in top of first PS. *12 PS*.
Round 4: *1sc in next ch sp, ch3, picot, ch3, 1sc in next ch sp, (1hdc, 4dc, ch4, 4dc, 1hdc) in next ch sp, to make corner; rep from * 3 more times, join with a sl st in first sc.
Fasten off.
Rep to make 84 squares in yarn A and 37 in yarn B, 121 squares in total, joining as you work:

The center of each square is made with a magic ring; be sure to draw it up fully to close the hole for a neat finish.

MAKE IT YOURS/ You can create a checkerboard design by working the same number of squares in each color and alternating them as you join them. This will mean you'll need equal amounts of each yarn color.

JOIN-AS-YOU-GO

Once one square is complete the square next to it can be joined on in the final round. This is done at each corner and picot point of the joining edge or edges by passing the loop of the stitch that you are

making on the current square through the corresponding stitches of the other square, before continuing with the stitch. Continue in this manner, adding on each new square as the round is worked.

SQUARES LAYOUT (11 SQUARES X 11 ROWS)

Row 1: Yarn B x 1, yarn A x 9, yarn B x 1.
Row 2: Yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 3, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 3, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1.
Row 3: Yarn A x 2, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 2.
Row 4: Yarn A x 3, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 3.
Row 5: Yarn A x 2, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 2.
Row 6: Yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1.
Row 7: Yarn A x 2, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 2.
Row 8: Yarn A x 3, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 3.
Row 9: Yarn A x 2, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 2.
Row 10: Yarn A x 1, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 3, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 3, yarn B x 1, yarn A x 1.
Row 11: Yarn B x 1, yarn A x 9, yarn B x 1.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

These squares are joined-as-you-go, meaning one square is added to the previous on the final round. Working from left to right across the blanket in rows will help you to keep track of your place.

DIAGONAL *Lines*

This blanket is worked from one corner diagonally in rows to the opposite corner, by increasing blocks until the center row then decreasing to make a neat square.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Lion Brand Vanna's Choice (100% acrylic, approx.
170yd/156m per 3½oz/100g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:
2 balls each of shades:
Silver Blue 105 (A)
Linen 099 (B)
Pistachio 169 (C)
1 ball each of shades:
Pink 101 (D)
White 100 (E)
US size J/10 (6mm) hook
Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 42in (107cm) square

GAUGE (TENSION)

Four 3-dc blocks x 4.5 rows = 4in (10cm) in stitch patt, using US size J/10 (6mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the blanket

Using a US size J/10 (6mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 6 sts.
Row 1: 1dc in 4th ch from hook, 1dc in each of next 2 sts. *One 3-dc block*.
Row 2: Turn work, ch6, 1dc in 4th ch from hook, 1dc in each of next 2 sts, sl st in ch sp on block from previous row, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 3dc in same sp. *Two 3-dc blocks*.

Row 3: Turn work, ch6, 1dc in 4th ch from hook, 1dc in each of next 2 sts, sl st in ch sp on first block from previous row, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 3dc in same sp, sl st in ch sp on 2nd block from previous row, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 3dc in same sp. *Three 3-dc blocks*.
Cont in patt as set for a further 20 rows, 23 rows in total.
Twenty-three 3-dc blocks.
Cont in patt as set, working foll color sequence:
Yarn B for 4 rows. *Twenty-seven 3-dc blocks*.
Yarn C for 4 rows. *Thirty-one 3-dc blocks*.
Yarn B for 4 rows. *Thirty-five 3-dc blocks*.
Yarn C for 4 rows. *Thirty-nine 3-dc blocks*.
Yarn D for 3 rows. *Forty-two 3-dc blocks*.

Tips

The stitches form blocks, making it easy to keep track of where you are, adding or removing one block from each end of the row.

Once you begin decreasing you will be omitting the chain at the start of the row and this reduces the number of blocks per row.

BEGIN DECREASING

Cont with yarn D, turn work, sl st in 3 sts on first block in row, *sl st in ch sp on next block from previous row, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 3dc in same sp; rep from * to last block, sl st in ch sp on last block, turn for next row.
This sets patt for dec, cont in dec patt as set in foll color sequence until one block remains:
Yarn D for 1 row. *Forty 3-dc blocks*.
Yarn C for 4 rows. *Thirty-six 3-dc blocks*.
Yarn B for 4 rows. *Thirty-two 3-dc blocks*.

Yarn C for 4 rows. *Twenty-eight 3-dc blocks*.
Yarn B for 4 rows. *Twenty-four 3-dc blocks*.
Yarn A for 23 rows. *One 3-dc block*.
Fasten off.

FOR THE BORDER

Round 1: With RS facing, using a US size J/10 (6mm) hook, join yarn E in first st after any corner, ch1, *1sc in each st to next corner, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner; rep from * 3 more times, join with a sl st in first sc.
Round 2: Ch3 (counts as dc), *1dc in each st to next corner sp, (1dc, ch2, 1dc) in corner sp; rep from * 3 more times, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 3: Ch1, *1sc in each st to next corner sp, (1sc, ch1, 1sc) in corner sp; rep from * 3 more times, join with a sl st in first sc.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

MAKE IT YOURS / You can increase the size by working more rows before beginning to decrease—remember to increase the yarn amounts accordingly.

THE SEA

At Night

The half-square triangle is a simple yet extremely versatile design—make this cozy blanket as shown, or create your own striking geometric patterns.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Rowan Handknit Cotton DK (100% cotton, approx. 93yd/85m per 1¾oz/50g ball) light worsted (DK) weight yarn:

5 balls each of shades:

- Linen 205 (A)
- Sea Foam 352 (B)
- Slate 347 (C)

US size 7 (4.5mm) hook

Yarn needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 42in (107cm) square

GAUGE (TENSION)

Each square measures 6in (15cm), using US size 7 (4.5mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the blanket

HALF-SQUARE GRANNY SQUARES (MAKE 6 IN EACH COLOR COMBINATION, 18 TOTAL)

Using a US size 7 (4.5mm) hook and yarn A, make a magic ring.
Round 1: Ch3 (counts as 1dc throughout), 2dc into ring, ch2, 3dc into the ring, ch1, change to yarn B (don't cut yarn A), ch1, [3dc into the ring, ch2] twice, sl st in 3rd of 3-ch, turn, sl st in ch sp.
Round 2: Cont in yarn B, ch3, 1dc in same sp, 1dc in each of next 3 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp, 1dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in ch sp, ch1, pick up yarn A (don't cut yarn B), ch1, 2dc in same ch sp, 1dc in each of next 3 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp, 1dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in ch sp, ch2, join with a sl s in 3rd of 3-ch, turn, sl st in ch sp.
Round 3: Cont in yarn A, ch3, 1dc in same sp, 1dc in each of next 7 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp, 1dc in each of next 7 sts, 2dc in ch sp, 1ch, pick up yarn B (don't cut yarn A), ch1, 2dc in same ch sp, 1dc in each of next 7 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp, 1dc in each of next 7 sts, 2dc in ch sp, 2ch, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch, turn, sl st in ch sp.
Round 4: Cont in yarn B, ch3, 1dc in same sp, 1dc in each of next 11 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp, 1dc in each of next 11 sts, 2dc in ch sp, ch1, pick up yarn A (don't cut yarn B), ch1, 2dc in same ch sp, 1dc in each of next 11 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp, 1dc in each of next 11 sts, 2dc in ch sp, 2ch, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch, turn, sl st in ch sp.
Round 5: Cont in yarn A, ch3, 1dc in same sp, 1dc in each of next 15 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch-sp, 1dc in each of next 15 sts, 2dc in ch sp, ch1, pick up to yarn B (fasten off yarn A), ch1, 2dc in ch sp, 1dc in each of next 15 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp, 1dc in each of next 15 sts, 2dc in ch sp, 2ch, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.

Fasten off.

MAKE IT YOURS/ Half-square triangles make a range of different patterns and motifs depending on the placement—move the squares around to get your preferred design.

Tip

These squares are flipped so as not to carry the yarn around the whole square. You will be able to tell what direction to work in by the position of the alternate color yarn.

SOLID GRANNY SQUARE (MAKE 6 IN EACH COLOR, 18 TOTAL)

Using a US size 7 (4.5mm) hook and yarn A, make a magic ring.
Round 1: Ch3 (counts as 1dc throughout), 2dc into the ring, *(ch2, 3dc) into the ring; rep from * twice more, ch2, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 2: Change to yarn B, ch3, 1dc in each of next 2 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp, *1dc in each of next 3 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp; rep from * twice more, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.

Round 3: Change to yarn C, ch3, 1dc in each of next 4 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp, *1dc in each of next 7 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp; rep from * twice more, 1dc in each of next 2 sts, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 4: Change to yarn D, ch3, 1dc in each of next 6 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp, *1dc in each of next 11 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp; rep from * twice more, 1dc in each of next 4 sts, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 5: Change to yarn E, ch3, 1dc in each of next 8 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp, *1dc in each of next 15 sts, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in ch sp; rep from * twice more, 1dc in each of next 6 sts, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Arrange the squares in your desired pattern in six rows of eight blocks. Using a US size 7 (4.5mm) hook and yarn A, join the squares together with 1sc in each st through both layers, working through the back loops only.

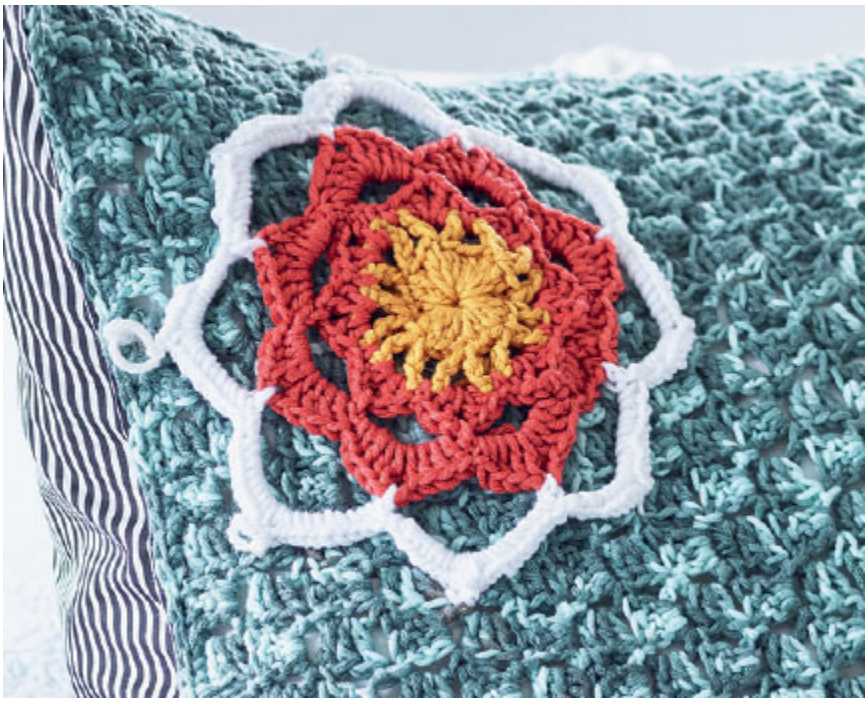
FOR THE BORDER

Round 1: With RS facing, using a US size 7 (4.5mm) hook, join yarn A in first st after any corner, ch3 (counts as 1dc), *1dc in each st to next corner, (1dc, ch1, 1dc) in corner; rep from * 3 more times, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 2: Change to yarn B, ch3, *1dc in each st to next corner sp, (1dc, ch1, 1dc) in corner sp; rep from * 3 more times, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Round 3: Change to yarn C, ch3, *1dc in each st to next corner sp, (1dc, ch1, 1dc) in corner sp; rep from * 3 more times, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch.
Fasten off.
Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.

Try to maintain an even gauge throughout to ensure that the half-triangle squares are the same size as the solid squares.

MANDALA *Meditation*

Create a retro-inspired design by teaming a mandala with a corner-to-corner background panel.



SKILL RATING: ●●●

MATERIALS

Berroco Comfort (50% nylon, 50% acrylic, approx. 210yd/193m per 3½oz/100g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:
1 ball each of shades:
Galaxy Mix 9808 (A)
Goldenrod 9743 (B)
Persimmon 9783 (C)
Chalk 9700 (D)
US size H/8 (5mm) hook
Yarn needle
25in (63cm) square pillow form
Pillow cover or fabric to create backing

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished pillow is 25in (63cm) square

GAUGE (TENSION)

Five 3-dc blocks x 5 rows = 4in (10cm) in stitch patt, using US size H/8 (5mm) hook.
12 dc x 7 rows = 4in (10cm) in dc, using US size H/8 (5mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the pillow

BACKGROUND PANEL

Using a US size H/8 (5mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 6 sts.
Row 1: 1dc in 4th ch from hook, 1dc in each of next 2 sts. *One 3-dc block*.
Row 2: Turn work, ch6, 1dc in 4th ch from hook, 1dc in each of next 2 sts, sl st in ch sp on block from previous row, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 3dc in same sp. *Two 3-dc blocks*.

Row 3: Turn work, ch6, 1dc in 4th ch from hook, 1dc in each of next 2 sts, sl st in ch sp on first block from previous row, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 3dc in same sp, sl st in ch sp on 2nd block from previous row, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 3dc in same sp. *Three 3-dc blocks*.
Cont in patt as set for a further 26 rows, 29 rows in total.
Twenty-nine 3-dc blocks.

BEGIN DECREASING

Turn work, sl st in 3 sts on first block in row, *sl st in ch sp on next block from previous row, ch3 (counts as 1dc), 3dc in same sp; rep from * to last block, sl st in ch sp on last block, turn for next row.
This sets patt for dec, cont in dec patt as set until one block remains.
Fasten off.

MAKE IT YOURS / Create two or three mandalas and secure them across the surface for a more vibrant design.

For the mandala

Using a US size H/8 (5mm) hook and yarn B, work a foundation ch of 8 sts, sl st to join into a ring.
Round 1: Ch3 (counts as 1dc throughout), 23dc into ring, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *24 sts*.
Round 2: Ch5 (counts as 1dc and 2ch), 1dc in same place as sl st, ch1, *skip next 2dc, (1dc, 2ch, 1dc) in next dc, ch1; rep from * to end, join with a sl st in 3rd of 5-ch. *16 sts + eight 2-ch sps + eight 1-ch sps*.
Round 3: Change to yarn C, sl st in first 2-ch sp, ch3, (1dc, 2ch, 2dc) in same sp, *1sc in next 1-ch sp, (2dc, 2ch, 2dc) in next 2-ch sp; rep from * to end, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *40 sts + eight 2-ch sps*.
Round 4: Sl st in first dc and 2-ch sp, 1sc in same sp, ch6, *1sc in next 2-ch sp, ch6; rep from * to end, join with a sl st in first sc. *8 sc + eight 6-ch sps*.
Round 5: Sl st in 6-ch sp, ch3, (3dc, ch2, 4dc) in same sp, *(1sc, 4dc, ch2, 4dc) in next 6-ch sp; rep from * to end, join with a sl st in 3rd of 3-ch. *64 dc + 8 sc + eight 2-ch sps*.
Round 6: Change to yarn D, sl st in next 3 dc and 2-ch sp, 1sc in same sp, ch10, *1sc in next 2-ch sp, ch10; rep from * to end, join with a sl st in first sc. *8 sc + eight 10-ch sps.*
Round 7: *(10sc, ch2, 10sc) in next 10-ch sp; rep from * to end, join with a sl st in first sc. *160 sc + eight 2-ch sps*.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends and block as desired to neaten.
Place panel onto front of fabric pillow cover and stitch to secure.

To create your own fabric backing, cut two pieces of fabric to 18 x 27in (45 x 67.5cm). Fold 1in (2.5cm) to the WS around each side, press and sew in place. Place the two pieces together, both with RS facing up, to create a 25in (62.5cm) square panel—the pieces will overlap in the center to allow the pillow form to be inserted. With WS together, place

the assembled fabric piece onto the crochet panel and sew around the outer edges.

The crochet mandala only used small amounts of yarn—if using yarn from your stash, pick yarns with a similar weight.

MAKE IT YOURS/ If you prefer to make this pillow cover removable, simply leave one side unsealed and add a series of button loops along one edge and buttons on the other.

SIMPLE *Stripes*

Keep it minimal with neutral tones and simple stitches to create this soft and sumptuous pillow. The order of the stripes is reversed on the back of the pillow.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Stylecraft Weekender Super Chunky (100% acrylic, approx. 109yd/100m per 3½oz/100g ball) super bulky (super chunky) weight yarn:

3 balls each of shades:
Cream 3677 (A)
Clay 3678 (B)

US size M/13 (9mm) hook
Yarn needle
26in (66cm) square pillow form

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished pillow is 26½in (67cm) square

GAUGE (TENSION)

6 dc x 4.5 rows = 4in (10cm) square, using US size M/13 (9mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the pillow

FRONT

Using a US size M/13 (9mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 51 sts.
Row 1: 1sc in 2nd ch from hook, 1sc in each st to end. *50 sts*.
Rows 2–5: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in each st to end.
Row 6: Ch1, 1sc in each st to end.
Row 7: Change to yarn B, ch1, 1sc in each st to end.
Rows 2 to 7 form patt. Cont in patt as set, changing color every 6 rows until 5 color blocks have been worked in total.
Fasten off.

BACK

Using a US size M/13 (9mm) hook and yarn B, make a foundation ch of 51 sts.
Row 1: 1sc in 2nd ch from hook, 1sc in each st to end. *50 sts*.
Rows 2–5: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in each st to end.
Row 6: Ch1, 1sc in each st to end.
Row 7: Change to yarn A, ch1, 1sc in each st to end.
Rows 2 to 7 form patt. Cont in patt as set, changing color every 6 rows until 5 color blocks have been worked.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Weave in all ends.

Place front and back panels WS together, with pillow form between them.

Round 1: Using a US size M/13 (9mm) hook, join yarn B in first st after any corner, *working through both layers, 1sc in each st to next corner, (1sc, ch2, 1sc) in corner; rep from * 3 more times, join with a sl st in first sc.

Fasten off.

Bulkier yarns sometimes don't fit through the eye of a yarn needle, but you can use a smaller crochet hook to help weave the ends in.

If you prefer to make the front and back of this pillow matching, simply increase the yarn quantities of one shade to ensure that you have enough yarn.

BERMUDA *Triangles*

Crocheted triangles tessellate neatly, to create a striking geometricdesign pillow panel worked in cool tonal shades.

SKILL RATING: •••

MATERIALS

Brown Sheep Lamb's Pride Worsted (85% wool, 15% mohair, approx. 190yd/173m per 4oz/113g ball) worsted (Aran) weight yarn:
1 ball each of shades:
Blue Flannel M82 (A)
Oatmeal M115 (B)
Seafoam M16 (C)
Turquoise Depths M187 (D)
US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook
Yarn needle
25in (63cm) square pillow form
Pillow cover or fabric to create backing

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Finished pillow is 25½in (64cm) square

GAUGE (TENSION)

10 sts x 6 rows = 4in (10cm) square, using US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

See page 9.

For the panel

TRIANGLES (MAKE 24 IN TOTAL, USING MIX OF YARN SHADES)

Using a US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 16 sts.

Row 1: 1dc in 4th ch from hook (skipped 3-ch counts as 1dc), 1dc in each st to end. *14 dc*.

Row 2: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in each st to end.

Row 3: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), skip st at base of ch and next st, 1dc in each st to last 2 sts, skip next st, 1dc in 3rd of 3-ch. *12 sts*.

Row 4: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in each st to end.

Row 5: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), skip st at base of ch and next st, 1dc in each st to last 2 sts, skip next st, 1 dc in 3rd of 3-ch. *10 sts*.

Leave long yarn ends at the beginning and end of each piece to be used for joining the pieces together.

Tip

Blocking each piece before seaming will make it easier to join the pieces neatly.

Row 6: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in each st to end. Cont in patt as set, skipping 1 st at each end of every other row, until 2 sts rem.
Fasten off.

HALF TRIANGLE (MAKE 6 IN TOTAL, USING MIX OF YARN SHADES)

Using a US size I/9 (5.5mm) hook and yarn A, work a foundation ch of 10 sts.
Row 1: 1dc in 4th ch from hook (skipped 3-ch counts as 1dc), 1dc in each ch to end. *8 sts.*
Row 2: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in each st to last 2 sts, skip next st, 1dc in 3rd of 3-ch. *7 sts*.
Row 3: Ch3 (counts as 1dc), 1dc in each st to end.
Cont in patt as set until 2 sts rem.
Fasten off.

Making up and finishing

Place triangles interlocking in three rows of eight, then add three half-triangles at each side to create a square. Use yarn ends to join triangles together with whip stitch. Weave in all ends.
Place panel onto front of fabric pillow cover and stitch to secure.

To create your own fabric backing, cut two pieces of fabric to 18 x 27in (45 x 67.5cm). Fold 1in (2.5cm) to the WS around each side, press and sew in place. Place the two pieces together, both with RS facing up, to create a 25in (62.5cm) square panel—the pieces will overlap in the

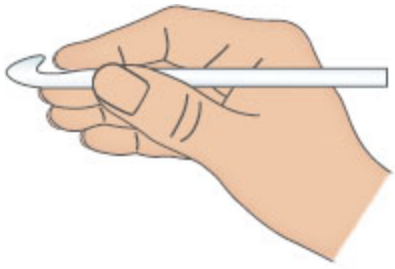
center to allow the pillow form to be inserted. With WS together, place the assembled fabric piece onto the crochet panel and sew around the outer edges.

MAKE IT YOURS/ Make a multi-colored design by using up same-weight yarns from your stash.

TECHNIQUES

In this section, we explain how to master the simple crochet and finishing techniques that you need to make the projects in this book.

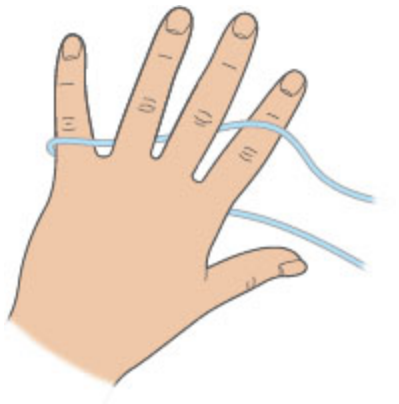
Holding the hook



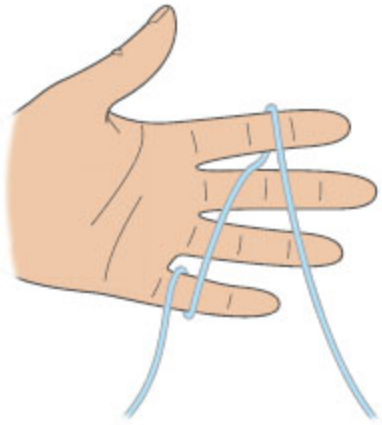
Pick up your hook as though you are picking up a pen or pencil. Keeping the hook held loosely between your fingers and thumb, turn your hand so that the palm is facing up and the hook is balanced in your hand and resting in the space between your index finger and your thumb.

You can also hold the hook like a knife—this may be easier if you are working with a large hook or with chunky yarn. Choose the method that you find most comfortable.

Holding the yarn



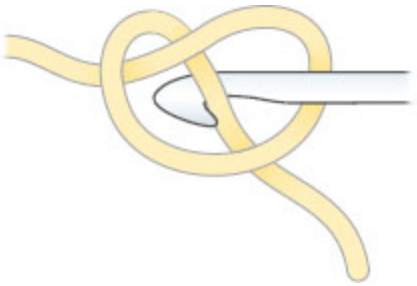
1 Pick up the yarn with your little finger in the opposite hand to your hook, with your palm facing upward and with the short end in front. Turn your hand to face downward, with the yarn on top of your index finger and under the other two fingers and wrapped right around the little finger, as shown above.



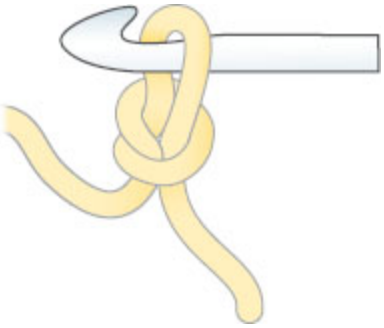
2 Turn your hand to face you, ready to hold the work in your middle finger and thumb. Keeping your index finger only at a slight curve, hold the work or the slip knot using the same hand, between your middle finger and your thumb and just below the crochet hook and loop/s on the hook.

Making a slip knot

The simplest way is to make a circle with the yarn, so that the loop is facing downward.

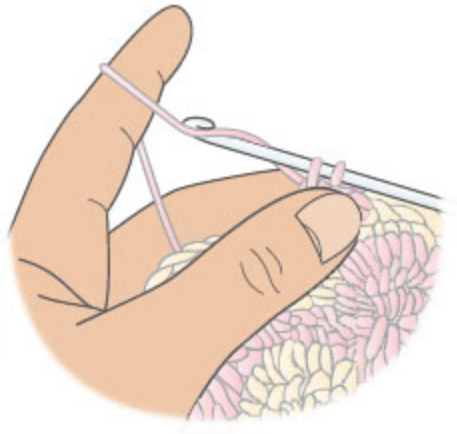


1 In one hand hold the circle at the top where the yarn crosses, and let the tail drop down at the back so that it falls across the center of the loop. With your free hand or the tip of a crochet hook, pull a loop through the circle.



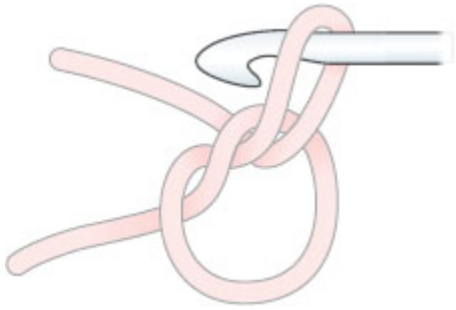
2 Put the hook into the loop and pull gently so that it forms a loose loop on the hook.

Yarn over hook (yoh)



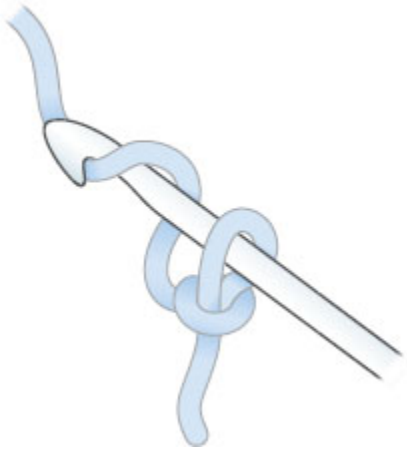
To create a stitch, catch the yarn from behind with the hook pointing upward. As you gently pull the yarn through the loop on the hook, turn the hook so it faces downward and slide the yarn through the loop. The loop on the hook should be kept loose enough for the hook to slide through easily.

Magic ring

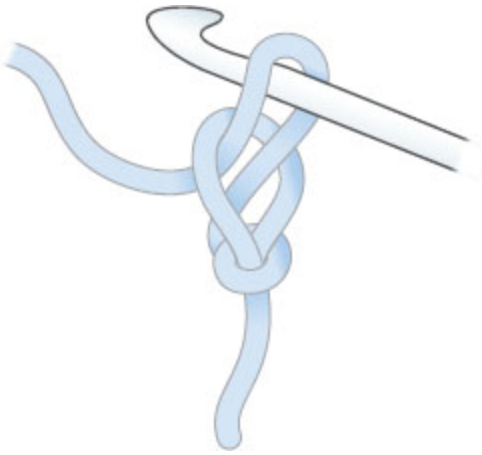


This is a useful starting technique if you do not want a visible hole in the center of your round. Loop the yarn around your finger, insert the hook through the ring, yarn over hook, and pull through the ring to make the first chain. Work the number of stitches required into the ring and then pull the end to tighten the center ring and close the hole.

Chain (ch)



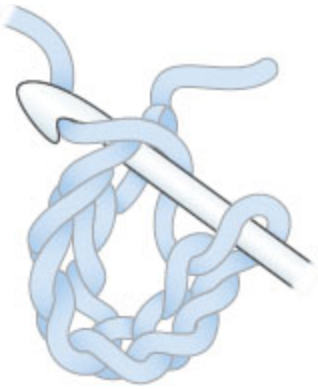
1 Using the hook, wrap the yarn over the hook ready to pull it through the loop on the hook.



2 Pull through, creating a new loop on the hook. Continue in this way to create a chain of the required length.

Chain ring

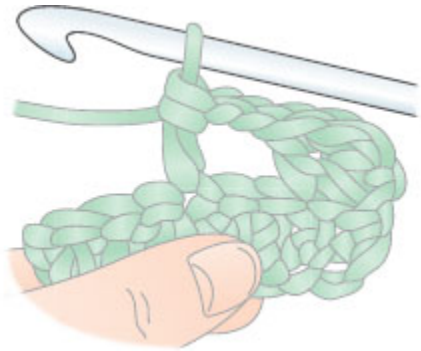
If you are crocheting a round shape, one way of starting off is by crocheting a number of chains following the instructions in your pattern, and then joining them into a circle.



1 To join the chain into a circle, insert the crochet hook into the first chain that you made (not into the slip knot), yarn over hook.

2 Pull the yarn through the chain and through the loop on your hook at the same time, thereby creating a slip stitch and forming a circle. You now have a chain ring ready to work stitches into as instructed in the pattern.

Chain space (ch sp)

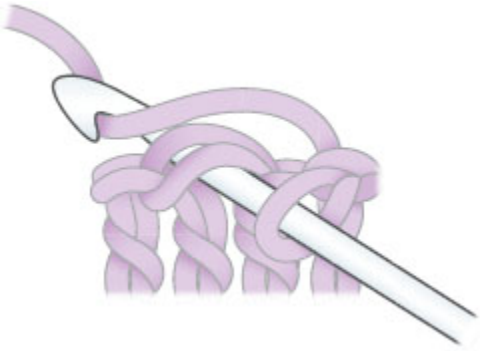


1 A chain space is the space that has been made under a chain in the previous round or row, and falls in between other stitches.

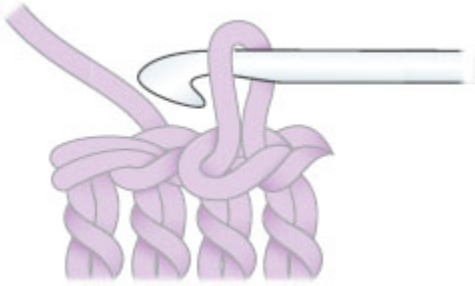
2 Stitches into a chain space are made directly into the hole created under the chain and not into the chain stitches themselves.

Slip stitch (sl st)

A slip stitch doesn't create any height and is often used as the last stitch to create a smooth and even round or row.



1 To make a slip stitch: first put the hook through the work, yarn over hook.



2 Pull the yarn through both the work and through the loop on the hook at the same time, so you will have 1 loop on the hook.

Making rounds

When working in rounds the work is not turned, so you are always working from one side. Depending on the pattern you are working, a "round" can be square.

Start each round by making one or more chains to create the height you need for the stitch you are working:

Single crochet = 1 chain
Half double crochet = 2 chains
Double crochet = 3 chains
Treble = 4 chains

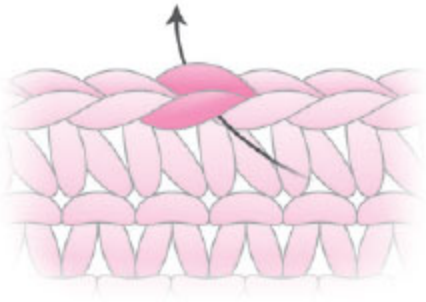
Work the required stitches to complete the round. At the end of the round, slip stitch into the top of the chain to close the round.

If you work in a spiral you do not need a turning chain. After completing the base ring, place a stitch marker in the first stitch and then continue to crochet around. When you have made a round and reached the point where the stitch marker is, work this stitch, take out the stitch marker from the previous round and put it back into the first stitch of the new round. A safety pin or piece of yarn in a contrasting color makes a good stitch marker.

Making rows

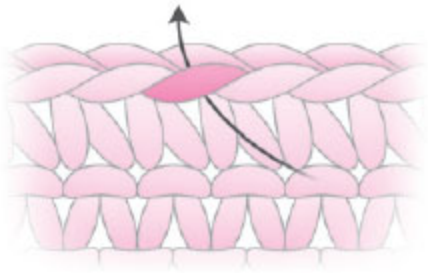
When making straight rows you turn the work at the end of each row and make a turning chain to create the height you need for the stitch you are working with, as for making rounds.
Single crochet = 1 chain
Half double crochet = 2 chains
Double crochet = 3 chains
Treble = 4 chains

Working into top of stitch



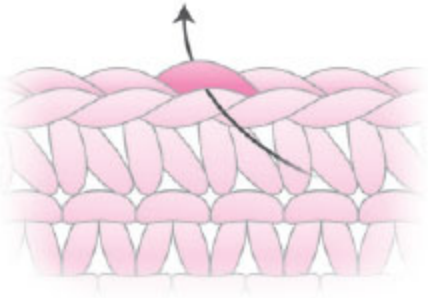
Unless otherwise directed, always insert the hook under both of the two loops on top of the stitch—this is the standard technique.

Working into front loop of stitch (FLO)



To work into the front loop of a stitch, pick up the front loop from underneath at the front of the work.

Working into back loop of stitch (BLO)



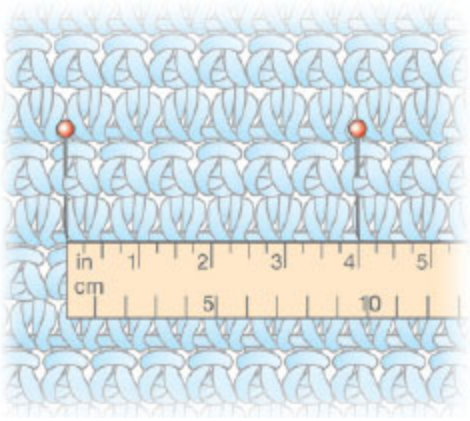
To work into the back loop of the stitch, insert the hook between the front and the back loop, picking up the back loop from the front of the work.

How to measure a gauge (tension) square

Using the hook and the yarn recommended in the pattern, make a number of chains to measure approximately 6in (15cm). Working in the stitch pattern given for the gauge measurements, work enough rows to form a square. Fasten off.

Take a ruler, place it horizontally across the square, and using pins, mark a 4in (10cm) area. Repeat vertically to form a 4in (10cm) square

on the fabric.
Count the number of stitches across, and the number of rows within the square, and compare against the gauge given in the pattern.
If your numbers match the pattern then use this size hook and yarn for your project. If you have more stitches, then your gauge is tighter than recommended and you need to use a larger hook. If you have fewer stitches, then your gauge is looser and you will need a smaller hook.
Make gauge squares using different size hooks until you have matched the gauge in the pattern, and use this hook to make the project.

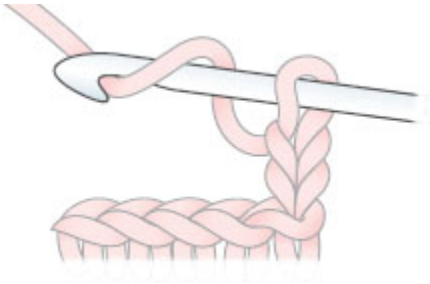


Single crochet (sc)

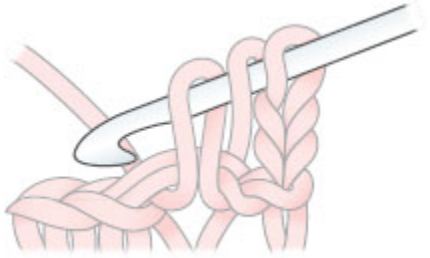
1 Insert the hook into your work, yarn over hook and pull the yarn through the work only. You will then have 2 loops on the hook.

2 Yarn over hook again and pull through the two loops on the hook. You will then have 1 loop on the hook.

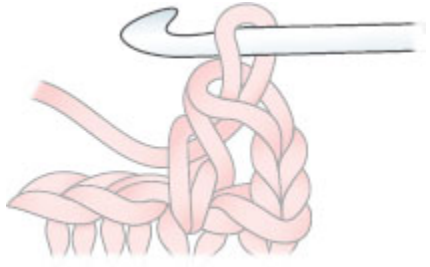
Half double crochet (hdc)



1 Before inserting the hook into the work, wrap the yarn over the hook and put the hook through the work with the yarn wrapped over.



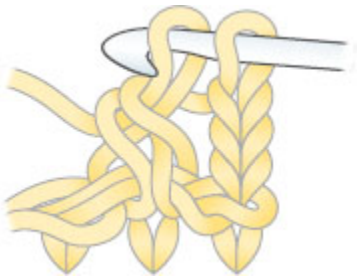
2 Yarn over hook again and pull through the first loop on the hook. You now have 3 loops on the hook.



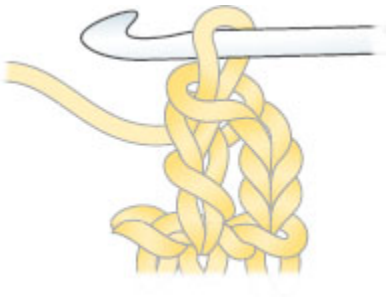
3 Yarn over hook and pull the yarn through all 3 loops. You will be left with 1 loop on the hook.

Double crochet (dc)

1 Before inserting the hook into the work, wrap the yarn over the hook. Put the hook through the work with the yarn wrapped over, yarn over hook again and pull through the first loop on the hook. You now have 3 loops on the hook.

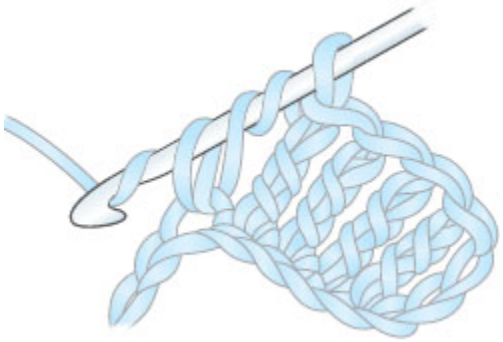


2 Yarn over hook again, pull the yarn through the first 2 loops on the hook. You now have 2 loops on the hook.



3 Pull the yarn through 2 loops again. You will be left with 1 loop on the hook.

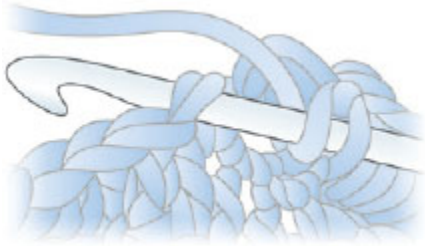
Treble (tr)



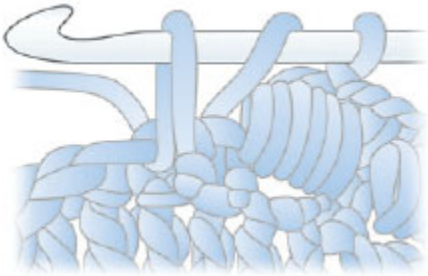
Yarn over hook twice, insert the hook into the stitch, yarn over hook, pull a loop through (4 loops on hook), yarn over hook, pull the yarn through 2 stitches (3 loops on hook), yarn over hook, pull a loop through the next
2 stitches (2 loops on hook), yarn over hook, pull a loop through the last
2 stitches.

Puff stitch (PS)

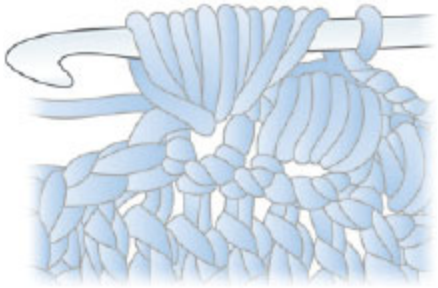
A puff stitch is a padded stitch worked by creating several loops on the hook before completing the stitch. The basic principle is always the same, but you can repeat steps 1 and 2 fewer times to make a smaller puff. Sometimes a chain is worked at the end to secure the puff stitch.



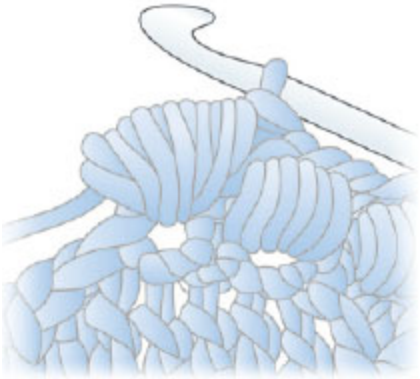
1 Yarn over hook, and insert the hook into the next stitch or space.



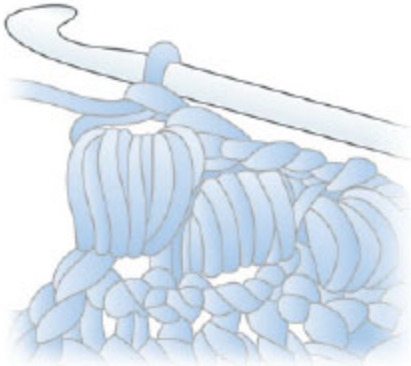
2 Yarn over hook again and draw through, keeping the loops of yarn long.



3 Repeat steps 1 and 2 five more times, keeping the loops long each time. There will be 13 loops on the hook.



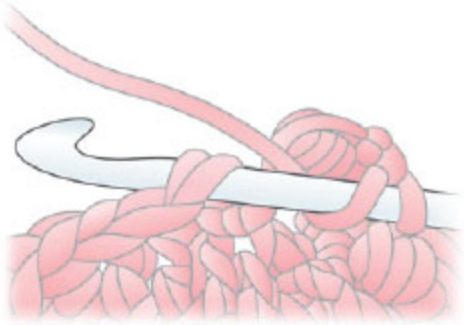
4 Yarn over hook and draw through all the loops on the hook.



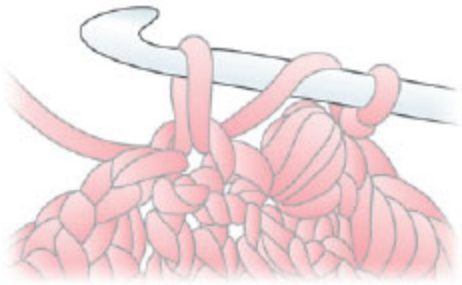
5 Yarn over hook, and draw through the single loop on the hook to make a chain and secure the puff stitch.

Bobble

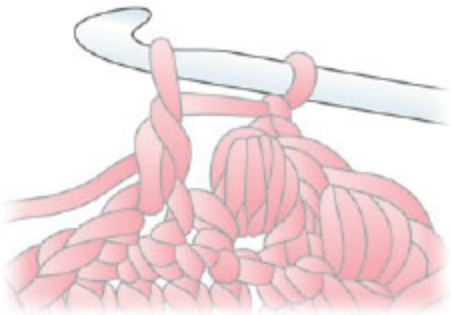
A bobble is similar to a puff stitch, but you work a complete stitch at the start and then continue taking the yarn round the hook and drawing through the stitch to make the bobble as large as you like. Sometimes a chain is worked at the end to secure the bobble.



1 Yarn round the hook and insert the hook into the next stitch.

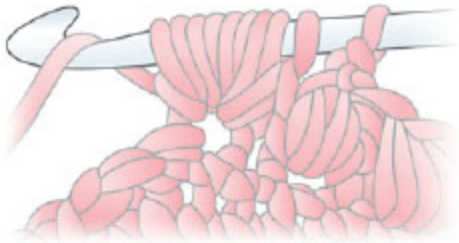


2 Yarn over hook and draw through the stitch.

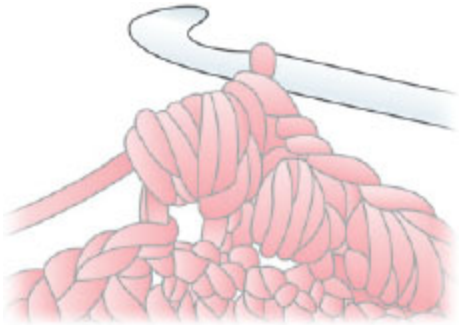


3 Yarn over hook, and draw through the first two loops on the hook.

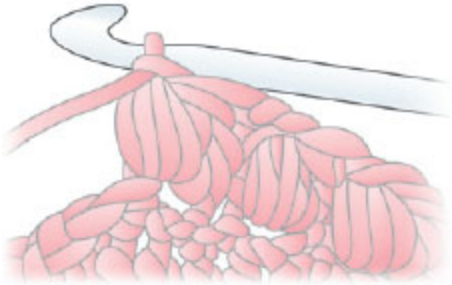
4 Yarn round the hook, insert the hook into the same stitch, yarn over hook and draw through the stitch.



5 Repeat step 4 three more times, keeping the loops long. There will be 10 loops on the hook. Wrap the yarn around the hook.



6 Then draw the yarn through all the loops on the hook to complete the bobble stitch.



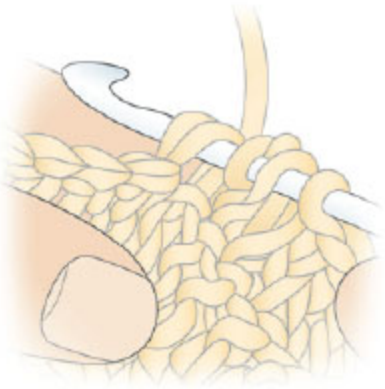
7 (Optional): yarn over hook, and draw the yarn through the single loop on the hook to make a chain and secure the bobble.

Clusters

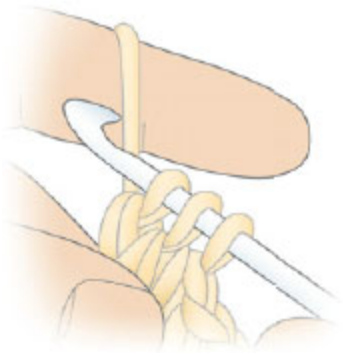
Clusters are groups of stitches, with each stitch only partly worked and then all joined at the end to form one stitch that creates a particular pattern and shape. They are most effective when made using a longer stitch such as a treble.

THREE-DOUBLE CROCHET CLUSTER (3-dc cl)

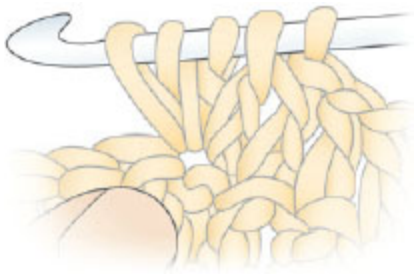
1 Yarn over hook, insert the hook in the stitch (or space). Yarn over hook, draw the yarn through the work (3 loops on the hook).



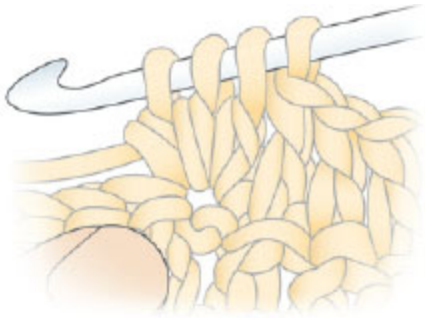
2 Yarn over hook, draw the yarn through 2 loops on the hook (2 loops on the hook). Yarn over hook, insert the hook in the same stitch (or space).



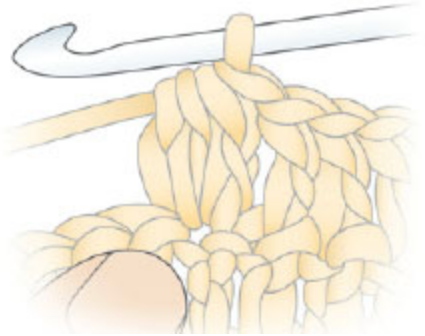
3 Yarn over hook, draw the yarn through the work (4 loops on the hook). Yarn over hook, draw the yarn through 2 loops on the hook (3 loops on the hook).



4 Yarn over hook, insert the hook in the same stitch (or space), yarn over hook, draw the yarn through the work (5 loops on the hook).



5 Yarn over hook, draw the yarn through 2 loops on the hook (4 loops on the hook).

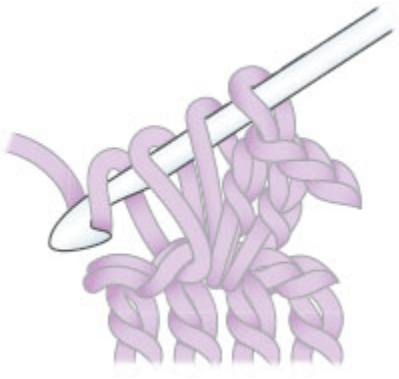


6 Yarn over hook, draw the yarn through all 4 loops on the hook (1 loop on the hook).

FOUR-DOUBLE CROCHET CLUSTER (4-dc cl)

Work steps 1 to 4 and then repeat steps 4 and 5 again (5 loops on the hook). Yarn over hook, draw the yarn through all 5 loops on the hook (1 loop on the hook).

Increasing

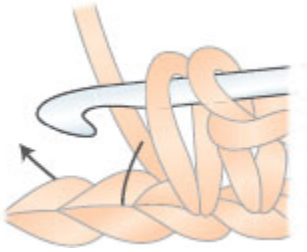


Make two or three stitches into one stitch or space from the previous row. The illustration shows a double crochet increase being made.

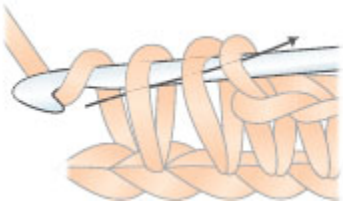
Decreasing

You can decrease by either skipping the next stitch and continuing to crochet, or by crocheting two or more stitches together. The basic technique for crocheting stitches together is the same, no matter which stitch you are using. The following examples show sc2tog and dc2tog.

SINGLE CROCHET TWO STITCHES TOGETHER (sc2tog)



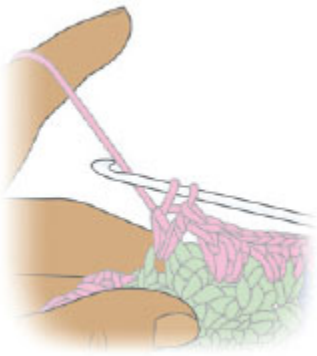
1 Insert the hook into your work, yarn over hook and pull the yarn through the work (2 loops on hook). Insert the hook in next stitch, yarn over hook and pull the yarn through.



2 Yarn over hook again and pull through all 3 loops on the hook. You will then have 1 loop on the hook.

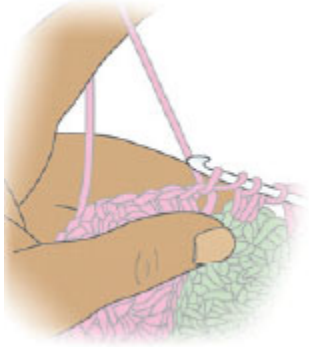
DOUBLE CROCHET TWO STITCHES TOGETHER (dc2tog)

1 Yarn over hook, insert the hook into the next space, yarn over hook, pull the yarn through the work (3 loops on hook).

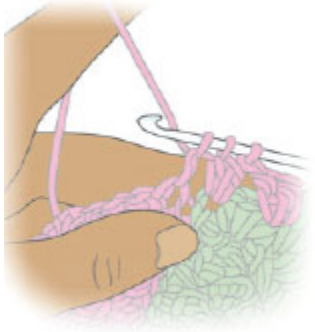


2 Yarn over hook, pull the yarn through 2 loops on the hook (2 loops on hook).

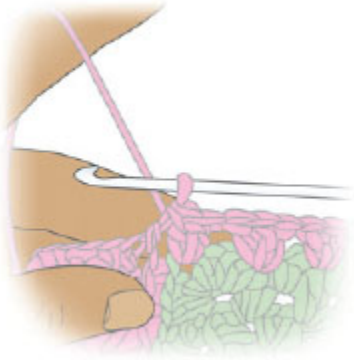
3 Yarn over hook, insert the hook into the next space.



4 Yarn over hook, pull the yarn through the work (4 loops on hook).



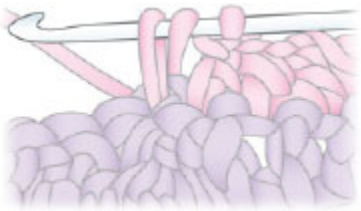
5 Yarn over hook, pull the yarn through 2 loops on the hook (3 loops on hook).



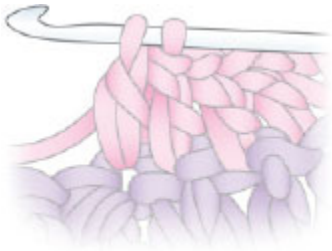
6 Yarn over hook, pull the yarn through all 3 loops on the hook (1 loop on hook).

DOUBLE CROCHET THREE STITCHES TOGETHER (dc3tog)

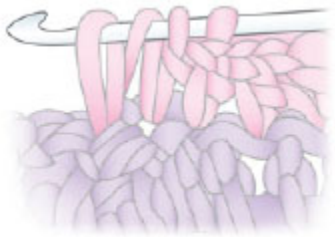
This stitch decreases three treble stitches into one.



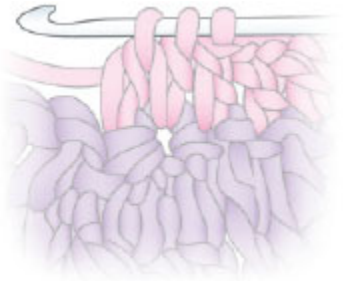
1 Yarn over hook, insert the hook in the next stitch, yarn over hook, draw up a loop (3 loops on hook).



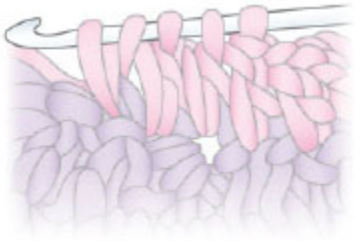
2 Yarn over hook, and draw through the first 2 loops on the hook (2 loops on hook).



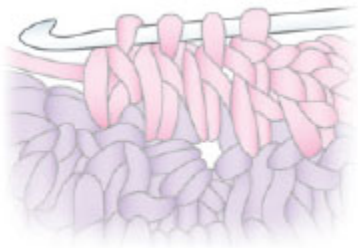
3 Yarn over hook, insert the hook in the next stitch, yarn over hook, draw up a loop (4 loops on hook).



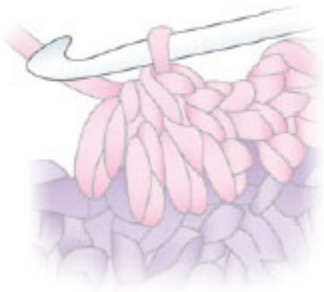
4 Yarn over hook, and draw through the first 2 loops on the hook (3 loops on hook).



5 Yarn over hook, insert the hook in the next stitch, yarn over hook, draw up a loop (5 loops on hook).



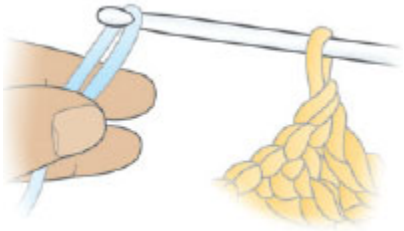
6 Yarn over hook, and draw through the first 2 loops on the hook (4 loops on hook).



7 Yarn over hook, and draw through all 4 loops on the hook (1 loop on hook).

Joining yarn at the end of a row or round

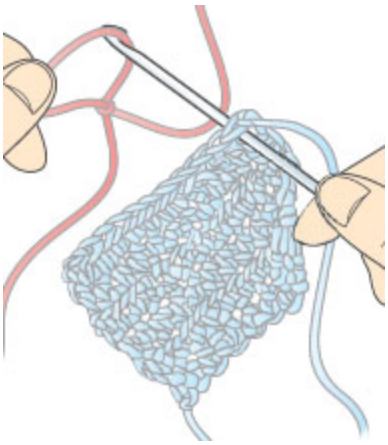
You can use this technique when changing color, or when joining in a new ball of yarn as one runs out.



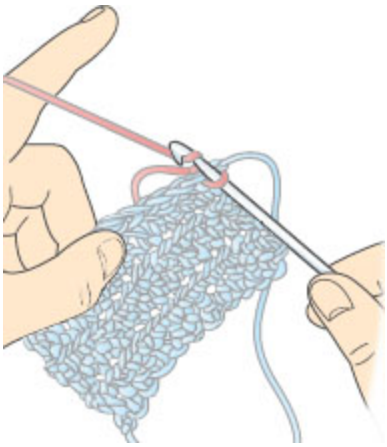
1 Keep the loop of the old yarn on the hook. Drop the tail and catch a loop of the strand of the new yarn with the crochet hook.

2 Draw the new yarn through the loop on the hook, keeping the old loop drawn tight and continue as instructed in the pattern.

Joining in new yarn after fastening off



1 Fasten off the old color (see page 125). Make a slip knot with the new color (see page 115). Insert the hook into the stitch at the beginning of the next row, then through the slip knot.

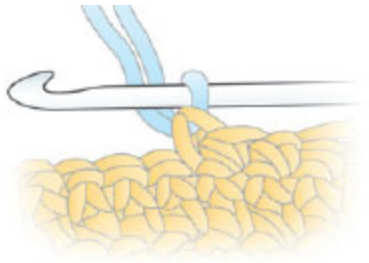


2 Draw the loop of the slip knot through to the front of the work. Carry on working using the new color, following the instructions in the pattern.

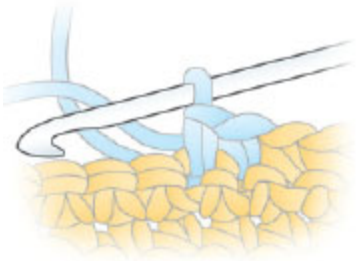
Joining yarn in the middle of a row or round

For a neat color join in the middle of a row or round, use these methods.

JOINING A NEW COLOR INTO SINGLE CROCHET

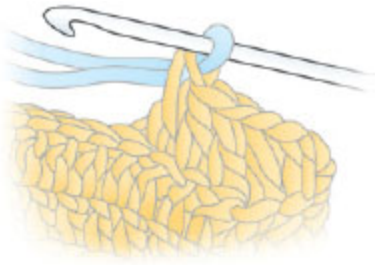


1 Make a single crochet stitch (see page 118), but do not draw the final loop through, so there are 2 loops on the hook. Drop the old yarn, catch the new yarn with the hook and draw it through both loops to complete the stitch and join in the new color at the same time.

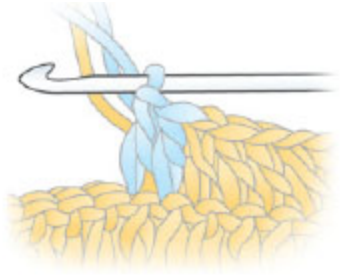


2 Continue to crochet with the new yarn. Cut the old yarn leaving a 6in (15cm) tail and weave the tail in (see right) after working a row, or once the work is complete.

JOINING A NEW COLOR INTO DOUBLE CROCHET

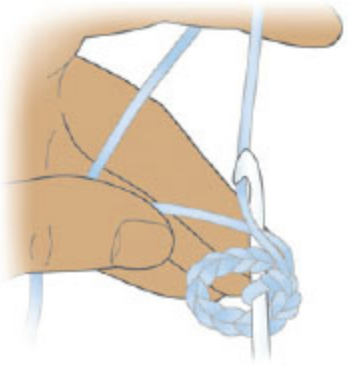


1 Make a double crochet stitch (see page 119), but do not draw the final loop through, so there are 2 loops on the hook. Drop the old yarn, catch the new yarn with the hook and draw it through both loops to complete the stitch and join in the new color at the same time.



2 Continue to crochet with the new yarn. Cut the old yarn leaving a 6in (15cm) tail and weave the tail in (see right) after working a row, or once the work is complete.

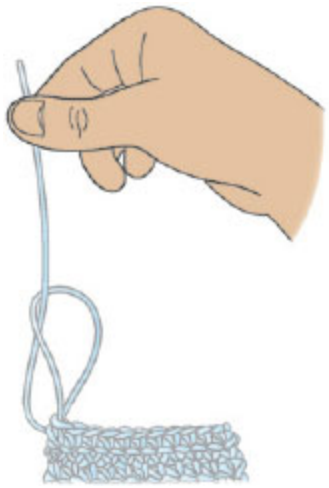
Enclosing a yarn tail



You may find that the yarn tail gets in the way as you work; you can enclose this into the stitches as you go by placing the tail at the back as you wrap the yarn. This also saves having to sew this tail end in later.

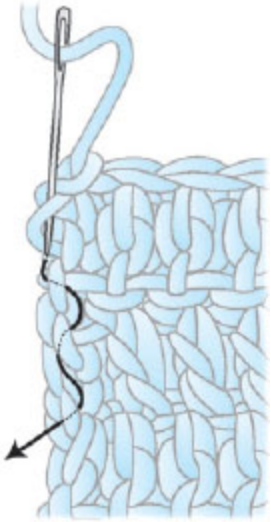
Fastening off

When you have finished crocheting, you need to fasten off the stitches to stop all your work unravelling.



1 Draw up the final loop of the last stitch to make it bigger. Cut the yarn, leaving a tail of approx. 4in (10cm)—unless a longer end is needed for sewing up. Pull the tail all the way through the loop and pull the loop up tightly.

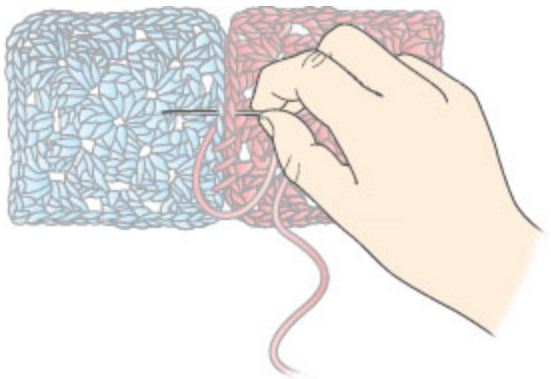
Weaving in yarn ends



It is important to weave in the tail ends of the yarn so that they are secure and your crochet won't unravel. Thread a tapestry needle with the tail end of yarn. On the wrong side, take the needle through the crochet one stitch down on the edge, then take it through the stitches, working in a gentle zig-zag. Work through four or five stitches then

return in the opposite direction. Remove the needle, pull the crochet gently to stretch it, and trim the end.

Sewing up

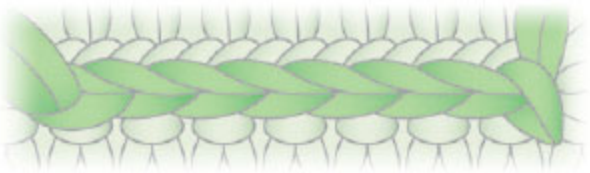


Sewing up crochet fabric can be done in many ways, but using a whip stitch is the easiest. However, you will be able to see the stitches clearly, so use a matching yarn.
Lay the two pieces to be joined next to each other with right sides facing upward. Secure the yarn to one piece. Insert the needle into the front of one piece of fabric, then up from the back of the adjoining fabric. Repeat along the seam.

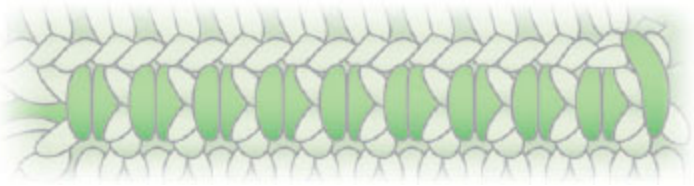
Making a single crochet seam

With a single crochet seam you join two pieces together using a crochet hook and working a single crochet stitch through both pieces, instead of sewing them together with a tail of yarn and a yarn sewing needle. This makes a quick and strong seam and gives a slightly raised finish to the edging. For a less raised seam, follow the same basic technique, but work each stitch in slip stitch rather than single crochet.

1 Start by lining up the two pieces with wrong sides together. Insert the hook in the top 2 loops of the stitch of the first piece, then into the corresponding stitch on the second piece.



2 Complete the single crochet stitch as normal and continue on the next stitches as directed in the pattern. This gives a raised effect if the single crochet stitches are made on the right side of the work.

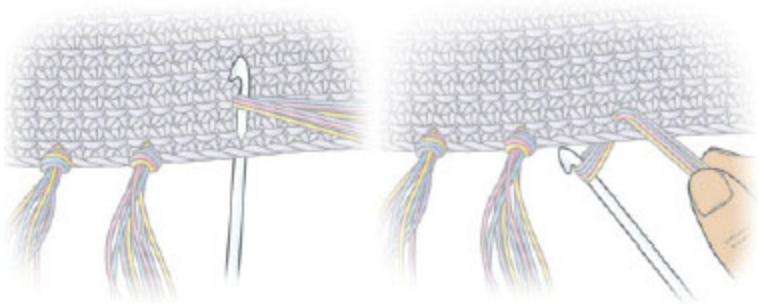


3 You can work with the wrong side of the work facing (with the pieces right side facing) if you don't want this effect and it still creates a good strong join.

Blocking

Crochet can tend to curl so to make flat pieces stay flat you may need to block them. Pin the piece out to the correct size and shape on the ironing board, then cover with a cloth and press or steam gently (depending on the type of yarn) and allow to dry completely. For some types of yarn it's best to soak or even just spritz with cold water, rather than using a steam iron.

Tassels and fringes



1 Cut yarn to quantity and length given in the pattern. Take suggested number of strands and fold in half. With right side of project facing, insert a crochet hook from the wrong side through one of the edge stitches. Catch the bunch of strands with the hook at the fold point.

2 Pull through to make a big loop and, using your fingers, pull the tails of the bunch of strands through the loop.

3 Pull on the tails to tighten the loop firmly to secure the tassel.

CROCHET STITCH CONVERSION CHART

Crochet stitches are worked in the same way in both the UK and the USA, but the stitch names are not the same and identical names are

used for different stitches. Below is a list of the UK terms used in this book, and the equivalent US terms.

UK TERM	US TERM
double crochet (dc)	single crochet (sc)
half treble (htr)	half double crochet (hdc)
treble (tr)	double crochet (dc)
double treble (dtr)	treble (tr)
triple treble (trtr)	double treble (dtr)
quadruple treble (qtr)	triple treble (trtr)
tension	gauge
yarn round hook (yrh)	yarn over hook (yoh)

SUPPLIERS

Choosing yarns is one of the most enjoyable aspects of starting a new crochet project! However, with so many colors, fibers, and brands to choose from it can sometimes be hard to know just where to start. Here are a selection of the brands that have been featured in the projects in this book, so you can shop these brands, or team them with something from your stash!

Bernat
www.loveknitting.com
www.yarnspirations.com

Berroco
www.berroco.com
www.loveknitting.com

Brown Sheep Company
www.loveknitting.com
www.brownsheep.com

Cascade
www.cascadeyarns.com
www.loveknitting.com

Caron
www.loveknitting.com
www.yarnspirations.com

Lily Sugar ’n Cream
www.hobbycraft.co.uk
www.joann.com

Lion Brand
www.lionbrand.com
www.loveknitting.com

Paintbox
www.loveknitting.com

Rowan
www.knitrowan.com
www.loveknitting.com
www.jimmybeanswool.com

Schachenmayr
www.loveknitting.com

Stylecraft Yarns
www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk
www.loveknitting.com

World of Wool
www.worldofwool.co.uk

For tools and finishings, the following have store locators on their websites, as well as online sales.

USA

Michaels
www.michaels.com

Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores
www.joann.com

If you wish to substitute a different yarn for the one recommended in the pattern, try the Yarnsub website for suggestions:

Yarnsub
www.yarnsub.com

UK

John Lewis
www.johnlewis.co.uk

Hobbycraft
www.hobbycraft.co.uk

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